

Table of international exchange rates for various currencies including the US Dollar, Japanese Yen, and others.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,808

Simon Garfield on the politics of HIV

...ing Aids again

...ean weather

Online

A music festival live on the Web

G2 page 10/13

Patrick Donovan

When S... a share of...

This section

Child benefit payments to be handed to private sector £100m contract could go to pools firm Lilley starts welfare revolution

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

PAYMENT of child benefit to seven million families is to be handed over wholesale to the private sector under plans to be unveiled next week by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

probable bidders for the work. But one trade union leader last night forecast interest in the lucrative child benefit contract - likely to be worth up to £100 million a year - from companies such as lottery and pools promoters.

It is much more difficult to envisage privatisation of means-tested income support, which costs £1.7 billion a year to administer.

state scheme, but one administered by a private contractor. He will also argue that families will see no difference and will remain able to collect the benefit in cash at a post office.

"change programme" - the drive to slash the £33 billion social security administration costs by a quarter over three years.

It was recently integrated into child benefit. Chris Kirk, DSS section secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, a clerical grades' union, said: "Child benefit is a wholly discrete area of work - perfect for privatising."

One name already being touted is that of Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which holds several large government computer contracts. The EDS corporation was founded by Ross Perot, the former United States presidential candidate, but was taken over by General Motors in 1984.

Involvement of such a company in sensitive benefit matters would cause anxiety among welfare groups. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) said it would want solid reassurances on confidentiality, on monitoring of the contract and on what such privatisation would mean to families.

Birt faces World Service showdown

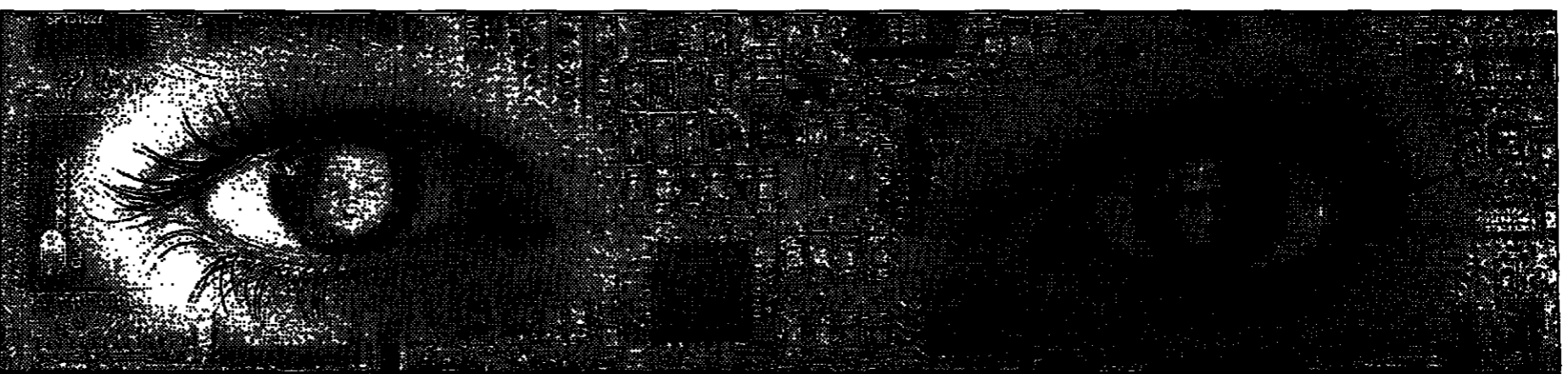
Martin Kettle

JORN BIRT, the director general of the BBC, has been summoned by Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to justify his controversial World Service reorganisation plans at a face-to-face meeting next week amid mounting anger at Westminster yesterday.



The world keeps listening, page 5 Letters, page 8

The motion says the World Service is a jewel in the BBC's crown and calls for guarantees of its programming and "unrivalled reputation for impartiality" will be maintained.



Soul Catcher photomontage illustrating the 'immortality chip'. It holds out the prospect of replacing such things as holiday snaps with direct playback of our experiences

From cradle to grave on memory chip

British Telecom scientists see prospect of people being fitted with 'black box' mind recorders, with playback of experiences through computer links. Stuart Millar and Bill O'Neill report

COMPUTER technology will have advanced so far in the next 30 years that people will be able to record their lives on "immortality chips", allowing them to relive their own and other people's memories, according to British Telecom scientists.

and biochemistry, and leader of the BT research team, said yesterday that the potential applications for such technology were virtually limitless.

holiday snaps and our memories, we could simply play our experiences back to each other."

kind of digital representation demanded. But we can afford to optimise."

Professor Steven Rose, of the Open University, said: "The problem is that the information recorded on the chip would be meaningless. You have to be able to understand what's going on in not just hundreds of thousands of nerve cells, but millions of nerve cells across the brain."



Chris Winter with the Soul Catcher 2025 research team, pushing the limits of computer technology

Inside

Government hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead...

Britain

Government hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead...

World News

New trade rows between Britain, its EU partners and the US loom as Congress legislates to punish companies investing in Iran and Libya.

Finance

The biotechnology sector was under a cloud after signs that a £143 million rights issue by British Biotech had flopped.

Sport

Twickenham made a dramatic U-turn to try to save England's place in the Five Nations Championship, with new talks set up.

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 G2 Quick Crossword 18 Radio, TV and Weather 18



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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

2 NEWS

Sketch

Old gaffers get call to the bar



Simon Hoggart

HAVE terrible news, tidings which bode ill for our once great nation. But first, a Labour MP introduced a bill which would encourage people to give evidence against anti-social neighbours. Next, Britain's leading anti-social neighbour, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who gave his address as 11 Downing Street, rose to the despatch box. Or rather, he belted up to the bar. Debates between the Chancellor and Gordon Brown now resemble a row between two old gaffers in a pub. They don't like each other much, they disagree on most things, but there's nowhere else to drink, and in truth, if one of them moved, the other would miss him. The overall effect is almost affectionate. When the deputy speaker shouted, many times, "Order!" you expected one to say, "Fim of heat and a packet of scratchings — and you'd better ask that miserable bugger what he'll have, too."

requirements in the Treasury. Of course, of course. And if the Department for Education were to consider whether to train squads of hangmen for the next decade? This would not, incontrovertibly not, mean they were considering whether to introduce capital punishment to restore discipline in schools. Dennis Skinner wondered why Mr Clarke had abstained on the vote to increase Cabinet ministers' salaries to £103,000. The Chancellor made a rare mistake. "The figure you quoted I shall not receive, as it does not come into effect until the next parliament," he said. The implication — that after the election he would not be in Government — took a while to sink into Labour skulls. They are not at their best in economic debates. When they did realise they started muttering, then jeering and finally roaring. Mr Clarke airily announced what he had really meant: "When I come back here it won't be for the money, but for the pleasure of keeping Gordon Brown away." Yes, and if you believe that, you probably also believe they're not trying to privatise the welfare state. Mr Brown made a feeble reply. He abandoned jokes, which he usually does well, he was tediously obsessed with the leaked document, and he allowed noisy Tory backbenchers to throw him off course. But who needed jokes? As I gazed, the horrifying truth became apparent. Dr Michael Fabricant was sitting behind the Treasury ministers. He has been promoted to glory. Fabricant! The most oleaginous MP in Westminster, the man who has spent years sucking up to every minister visible. The fellow who once complimented Angela Browning on her figure, in public! He is now parliamentary private secretary to Mr Michael Jack, a Treasury minister. Last week in the Commons tea room he demanded of half a dozen Labour MPs "why does Hoggart keep picking on me?" "Because you keep writing to him, you pillock," replied Dale Campbell-Savours. "I really wonder why I bother. Congratulations, Mike, may the laurel wreath rest easy on your wig."



Bob Dole boards his plane after a two-day swing through California. Now it seems the only place he can go is out of the race altogether

'Dump Dole' revolt spreads

Party leaders say step aside

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE threat of mutiny spread through the Republican Party yesterday as senior leaders turned on the crashing campaign of presidential candidate Bob Dole. One prominent figure publicly urged him to withdraw before next month's convention in San Diego. The first signs of a Dump Dole movement came yesterday when Republican activist Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington broke ranks to demand Mr Dole step aside and be replaced by a new nominee. "Increasingly there are people talking about, 'How can we convince Bob Dole to withdraw?'" said the Cambridge-educated Ms Huffington, a close associate of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and a leading figure in Washington Republican circles. She suggested party elders approach Mr Dole and say: "Listen, for the sake of the party, for the sake of keeping our majority in the House and the Senate, we need to find an excuse — health, whatever — and bring somebody else on." Her remarks came amid whispers from dozens of top Republicans, panicked that Mr Dole's campaign is in free fall. Many have written off his chances of beating President Clinton in November.



Colin Powell: Former chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff



William Buckley: Founder of the National Review and grand old man of US conservatism



Alphonse D'Amato: Tough senator from New York, co-chairman of the Dole campaign, and a key Republican attack dog



Ralph Reed: Executive director of the Christian Coalition, which exercises a virtual veto over Bob Dole's choice of running mate



Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington: Greek-born, British-educated and now a Republican hostess

Revered as the most popular man in America, and still the object of Republican fantasies as a potential saviour of the 1996 campaign, he refuses to campaign for Mr Dole. Criticising the candidate's no-show at a black civil rights gathering: "I think it would have been useful to present his views. But apparently his schedule would not permit him to do that." Has also attacked Mr Dole's position on abortion and affirmative action.

"As things are now, Mr Dole threatens to be an entirely lost figure in American history. A loser does not necessarily remain invisible. Barry Goldwater [campaigning in 1964 for the Republicans] permanently imprinted his priorities on the body politic. So did George McGovern [the Democrat who lost in 1972]. Bob Dole threatens to leave no trace whatever."

Bill and Hillary Clinton's chief tormentor on the Whitewater affair. He says: "Right now Mr Dole's campaign is lacking a very powerful economic message, which I know they're working on." He also accuses him of being "unfocused" and of making a "generational" mistake when he recently caused a furor by saying nicotine was not addictive.

"While we understand Senator Dole's desire to close the gender gap, we stress that he must remain sensitive and committed to the needs of social conservatives, who could turn out in record numbers in November and provide him with the margin of victory." On Monday, he accused Mr Dole of moving in the "wrong direction" on abortion.

Came to prominence in 1994 when her millionaire husband, Michael Huffington, spent a good chunk of his personal fortune trying and failing to acquire a seat in the US Senate. Long an opponent of Mr Dole's, she is now willing to say so "on the record, because I feel that those who care for the party don't want to see a debacle in November."

Latest polls show Mr Clinton maintaining a 20-plus point lead. Republican officials insisted yesterday that the chances of Mr Dole being forced to quit are slim. He has an overwhelming majority of committed delegates at the August convention, and he is the only viable candidate acceptable to all wings of the party. "Colin Powell isn't going to touch it with a 10ft barge-pole," said Kevin Phillips, an analyst and Republican party expert, referring to the retired general and Gulf war hero who is still regarded as a

saviour who could trounce Mr Clinton. All of Mr Dole's initial primary challengers are non-starters. The one who performed best, firebrand Pat Buchanan, is too extreme for party moderates and would fare even worse than Mr Dole against Mr Clinton, according to polls. Even if it is a political impossibility, the mere fact that Republicans are fantasising about dropping Mr Dole shows the depth of despair felt by his campaign. The candidate is under fire from all sides. Moderates ac-

cuse him of caving in to the religious right on abortion, failing to send the right message on race and causing huge damage with remarks doubting the addictive power of tobacco. Gen Powell has led the charge, attacking him for failing to attend last week's convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the nation's oldest civil rights organisation. Mr Dole blamed a scheduling problem and later said the left-leaning head of the association was trying to "set me up".

Hardliners have also been angered by Mr Dole's selection on Tuesday of Congresswoman Susan Molinari, an abortion rights supporter, to deliver the keynote speech in San Diego. Ralph Reed, director of the mighty Christian Coalition, said the choice was a step in the "wrong direction". But the greatest criticism is reserved for Mr Dole's deficiencies as a candidate. "He doesn't have a clue," wrote conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer. Republicans were particularly embarrassed by a joint

appearance on CNN's Larry King Live by Mr Dole and his wife Elizabeth. Clearly irritated by her husband's inability to stay "on-message", she repeatedly grabbed his hand and cut him off when he threatened to wander off the point. Mr Dole's handlers have now ruled that he does not answer spontaneous questions from reporters, except during set piece interviews. Pessimistic advisers are fearful that even the selection of a high-energy running mate will not help, serving instead to highlight his failings.

Review

Dancing well, behaving badly

Judith Mackrell

Enter Achilles 2 Dance/BBC2

WATCHING the TV version of Enter Achilles, DVB's dance about hard-man culture, it sometimes feels as if we've slipped into a grim episode of Men Behaving Badly. There's the same amplified grunting, the same shots of uncontrollably twitchy groins, the same gleefully silly disco dancing and the same bery pub interiors. But unlike the dim prattishness that constitutes most of Tony and Gary's misadventures, DVB explore far more brutal issues of homophobia and violence. Carla van Gool's film, which has just won the Special Prize for Arts and Music at the Prix Italia, is the latest in a series of highly successful adaptations of DVB's work. The company's stark physical imagery creates instant television effect and director Lloyd Newson, has become very experienced at making work that translates for the camera. You get on screen all the emotional and physical risk-taking that fuelled the original stage piece. Yet it is only a translation, and part of what's been lost is the work's original ease in sliding between reality and fantasy. The stage version was performed in a kind of surreally shrunken pub interior, whose cramped proportions intensified the men's bullish energy and their lack of ease in their own skins. It provided a setting too where we didn't make distinctions between the characters' imaginations and fact. The film, however, is lo-

ated in a real pub, in real time and space. This not only dulls the work's fantastical horror, it also begs far more literal questions about the characters — where they are coming from, why their explosions of violence are so sudden, why they are so irredeemably vile. On stage, Newson's view of masculinity already appeared thwarted by an over-simplifying polemic but the film exaggerates it. Under the camera's gaze, the passage where an inflated female doll is raped and mutilated turns particularly offensive. On the other hand van Gool does take very clever advantage of the camera's ability to switch between viewpoints and her film makes illuminating jumps between the characters' perspectives which a stage director could only clumsily set up. The camera also gives sharp and thrilling focus to the dancers' physical skills. Eloquently lit and intuitively edited, the film deserves its prize. Enter Achilles heads a 2 Dance season, which also features Ross MacGibbon's adaptation of Yolande Smith's Swinger, a film deftly sympathetic to the original, not least because it cuts it by half. Based on Roland Barthes' sassy, cerebral A Lover's Discourse, Swinger splices actor's speech with dance and the film cleverly tracks between two separately lit and furnished spaces. MacGibbon knows how to film choreography, cutting with the rhythms of a phrase, and giving musical as well as dramatic emphasis to certain movements in close-up. You can see him intently exploring the craft of putting dance on to this small screen.

Germany wants to end role as EU's paymaster

Europe's largest economy seeks cut in long-term contributions

Denis Staunton in Berlin

GERMANY served notice yesterday that it plans to end its role as Europe's paymaster. It wants its annual contribution to the European Union cut and an overall spending cap put on next year's EU budget. "Germany is the largest economy in the European Union so we can afford a high

contribution. But it is not acceptable in the long term that one country bears around two-thirds of the net costs," Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said in an interview with the mass circulation Bild newspaper. The EU knows that Germany wants to negotiate a reduction in its contribution, he said. The issue was on its agenda and he was confident of securing a cut.

Germany's gross annual payment to the EU is £20 billion. Less than half of this is returned to Germany in the form of subsidies. Its net contribution of £12 billion in 1994 was more than twice as much as that of the other net contributors — Britain, the Netherlands, France and Italy — put together. The EU calculates each country's budget contribution on the basis of its gross national product, but German politicians complain that the cost of reunification and economic difficulties ought to be taken into account too.

The present contributions system will remain in force until 1999, by which time Germany will have to pay 30 per cent more than it does today. But Mr Waigel is determined to start renegotiating the system as soon as possible. "We'll start talks at a European level next year on a fairer contributions system so that it is clear well before the current agreement ends how the financing of the European Union will be organised in the future. This will be about a mechanism that will protect individual member states from a one-sided

and excessive burden," he said. But before that, Germany hopes to limit its contribution by imposing spending limits on the EU budget, similar to those being undertaken by many member states in order to qualify for membership of a single currency. "The EU must give complete support to the member states' consolidation efforts. That means that we'll be calling for a strict spending limit on the 1997 EU budget. We'll have to have intensive talks about that in Brussels shortly — with the European Parlia-

ment too," Mr Waigel said. Germany is eager to shape the agenda for next year's Inter Governmental Conference which will determine the future shape of the EU. But Mr Waigel's statement is the clearest indication to date that Born is no longer prepared to subsidise its partners as generously as in the past. The expansion of the EU to include former Warsaw Pact countries, such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, will place a new burden on EU finances which Germany does not want to shoulder alone.

THE PROMS BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING. HAYDN'S 'THE CREATION' OPENS PROMS 96, JULY 19 AT 7.30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

1550

Unemployment falls to five-year low, vacancies reach seven-year high and wage rises decline in 'flexible' labour market

Double joy for Clarke on jobs

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

GOVERNMENT hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead, but yesterday when official figures showed job vacancies at a seven-year high and unemployment dipping to a five-year low.

Wage pressures are easing, and the number of posts advertised in JobCentres is the highest since October 1989.

According to the Office for National Statistics, 14,300

people left the dole queue last month, taking the jobless total to 2,152,000, 7.7 per cent of the workforce. Job vacancies were at their highest recorded since October 1989.

City economists said the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was enjoying a rare combination of a lower unemployment and subdued inflation, with the statistics office data showing the annual rate of pay increases falling from 3.76 per cent in May to 3.5 per cent last month — the first fall for over two years.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at brokers Nikko Europe, said: "Contrary to

the fears of idle world analysts and the Bank of England, these figures show that you can have strong growth and low inflation."

The fall in the pace of pay rises — which wrong-footed analysts who had pencilled in a rise — is the result of Britain's new flexible labour market, according to Adam Cole at HSEC James Capel.

"It is blindingly obvious that something has happened in the last 15 years," he said. "At least in the labour market, the 'holy trinity' of a supply-side revolution are being borne out."

Mr Cole pointed to the fall

in trade union power and the rise in contract working to explain the failure of lower unemployment to translate into higher wages.

The financial markets seized on the upbeat figures as a welcome relief from recent gloom on Wall Street. They said the evidence of muted pay pressures vindicated Mr Clarke's decision to cut base rates by a quarter-point to 5.75 per cent last month.

Minutes of Mr Clarke's meeting with the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, before the June 5 cut show that he overruled Bank

advice to leave rates on hold. "These figures are excellent news — and further vindication — for Mr Clarke," said Mr Cole.

But Labour said the figures demonstrated increased job insecurity, and highlighted separate figures from the Labour Force Survey which showed a rise in unemployed out of work and claiming benefit.

Shadow employment spokesman Michael Meacher said: "The claimant unemployment figures mask the reality of an economic slowdown and a growing crisis in the labour market."

The survey figures showed that unemployment rose by 11,000 in the three months to May, after falling the previous quarter.

Although this was the rise fall since the winter of 1992/3, statisticians said the trend was still firmly downwards. Only Northern Ireland saw a rise in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit.

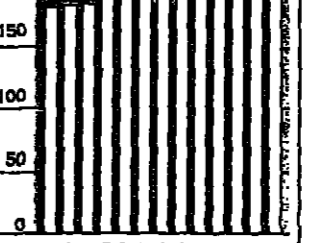
The rate was up from 11.1 per cent in May to 11.2 per cent last month.

Chancellor brushes aside rate cut fears, and Notebook, page 11

Unfilled vacancies

Vacancies at JobCentres

Seasonally adjusted, 000s



Provisional figure Source: DFE

Mark Tran in New York

Rupert Murdoch yesterday became America's most powerful television mogul by paying \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) for the New World Communications Group. He will now reach 40 per cent of homes in America through New World's 10 television stations, all affiliates of his News Corp's Fox television.

That will give Fox a massive advantage over rivals ABC, CBS and NBC, traditionally the three leading networks, with an unrivalled platform to launch and promote new shows.

The New World deal fits into Mr Murdoch's strategy of owning both distribution and content. The distribution power that News Corp gains will be all the more crucial as it prepares to launch a 24-hour news channel, taking on CNN and the new Microsoft-NBC round the clock channel that started on Monday.

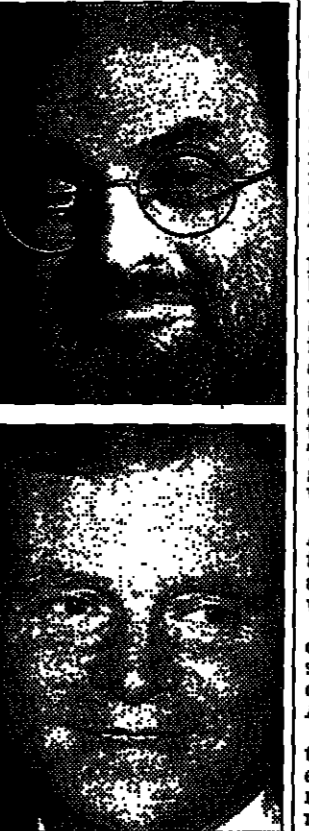
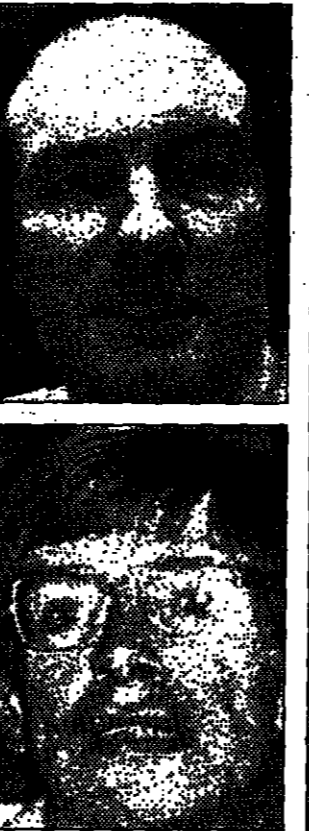
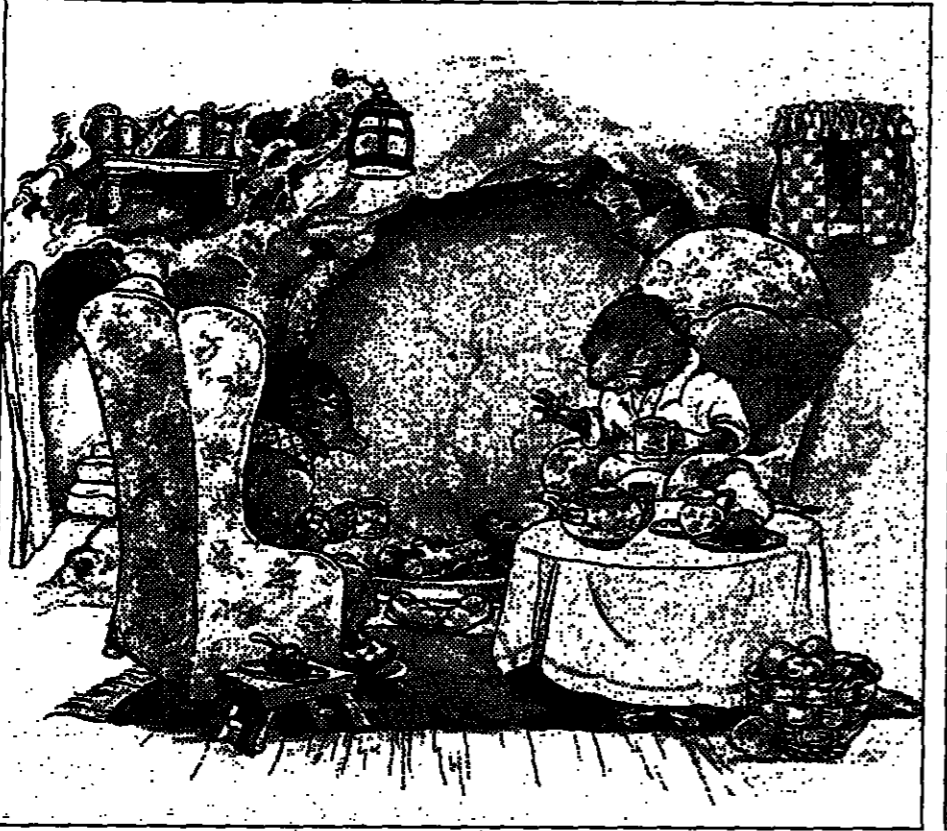
News Corp already held 20 per cent of New World, owned by flamboyant New York investor Ronald Perelman, who also owns Revlon, the cosmetics company. Mr Murdoch acquired the station two years ago for \$500 million. In exchange, New World switched the affiliations of 10 of its 12 TV stations to Fox from CBS, a unit of the conglomerate Westinghouse.

That earlier deal rocked the American TV world, leading to a game of musical chairs among the big three networks' affiliates.

It also subjected Mr Murdoch to intense government scrutiny because of foreign ownership rules affecting American TV stations.

The Federal Communications Commission eventually exempted News Corp from rules barring foreign companies from owning TV stations on the grounds that a fourth channel served the public interest.

News Corp will own TV stations in 11 of the top 12 markets. Fox has established itself as America's fourth network with hits including shows such as The Simpsons and Beverly Hills 90210 as well as tabloid TV shows such as Inside Edition, X-Files, featuring investigators of the supernatural, has become Fox's latest international success.



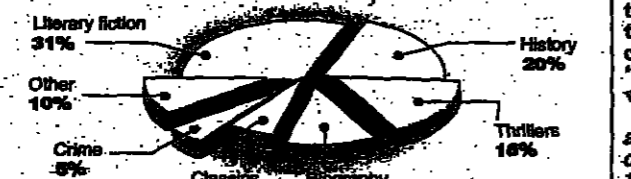
Childhood favourite The Wind in the Willows; most regrets about Will Hutton (centre, top) and Stephen Hawkins; political divide over Robert Tressell; and 'over-rated' Salman Rushdie (right, top) and Lord Archer

Not a vote more for 'over-rated' Archer as MPs pick best books

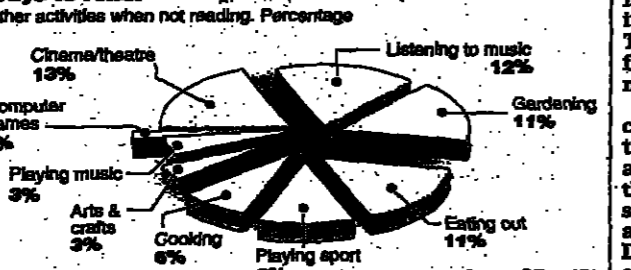
Between the covers

What our MPs like to read and how they relax

Types of books



Ways to relax



John Ezard

MPS ARE an unusually diverse band in literary tastes but they most fervently agree that their millionaire colleague Jeffrey Archer is "the most overrated author who ever lived".

Lord Archer receives this accolade today in a survey of the reading habits of 129 MPs. Will Hutton's The State We're In ties equal first with Stephen Hawkins' A Brief History of Time as the bestseller they feel most guilty about never having read.

Salman Rushdie comes a close second to Archer in the "most overrated author" stakes, followed by the master of convoluted sentences Henry James, along with Martin Amis, DH Lawrence, Enid Blyton and Iris Murdoch. Karl

Marx attracts votes from Labour and Liberal MPs.

The survey, by the book-sellers Dillons, "finds the popular books this year are Primary Colors, an anonymous satire on the Clinton election now revealed to be political commentator Joe Klein, and Roy Jenkins' Biography of Gladstone."

Politics shows most starkly in choices of "greatest political book ever". For Conservatives this is Machiavelli's treatise The Prince, about how to deceive and swindle your way through public life. For Labour MPs it is Robert Tressell's Victorian novel The Ragged Dicks, about how a group of impoverished manual workers discover that they are being deceived and swindled by employers and politicians. Childhood favourites in-

cluded Wind in the Willows but one named Higgins.

MPs most like literary fiction (31 per cent), history (20), thrillers (16) and biography (12).

● A children's author yesterday criticised writers of

adult fiction who are "embarrassed" by the idea of telling a story.

Philip Pullman, who has won the Carnegie Medal prize — first awarded in 1936 — for his new work Northern Lights, said: "In

adult literary fiction, stories are there on sufferance. Other things are felt to be more important: technical style, literary knowledge."

True colours, page 6

'IRA gang' breaks footballer's leg

David Starrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE career of a 19-year-old Northern Ireland professional footballer was in doubt last night after he was beaten with nail-studded clubs by a masked gang claiming to be from the IRA.

Donal Gray, who plays for Clonsilla Football Club in Lurgan, Co Armagh, and who has represented Northern Ireland, was operated upon at Belfast's City hospital after being transferred from Daisy Hill in Newry where he was admitted with multiple injuries.

Mr Gray was set upon by seven or more men armed with a handgun, iron bars and nail-studded clubs at his home in Barcroft Park, Newry, early yesterday. The gang claimed to be from the Provisional IRA.

Mr Gray was ordered into the garden where he was beaten for eight minutes. The footballer suffered a broken leg, fractured knee, puncture wounds to his legs, arm and head injuries.

He said from his hospital bed yesterday: "They were all standing with sticks and bars. I closed the door and went back in the house. They came up and booted the door in and said 'We want you outside'."

"I wouldn't go out. I just said no and started screaming and screaming. One of them put a gun to my head and said 'If you don't get out, we're going to blow your head off'. They got me in the front garden and I just lay curled up in a ball."

"They hit my legs first and one of the first blows was the break. I couldn't hear or move. They were coming at me. I just lay curled up in a ball."

"I lay curled up in a ball. They hit my legs first and one of the first blows was the break. They kept beating me. I covered my head and let them hit away."

Donal Gray on the attack at his home

head and let them hit away. "They didn't hit my head to the very last. I was up against the fence and one of them came up from behind and just clamped me on the head."

Mr Gray said he believed the youths knew he was a footballer. "The doctors say it can be fixed and I might be able to play again. But my head's all messed up. I'm very upset."

Mr Gray's father, Edward Gray, said he was forced to watch as the attack took place. He had no idea why he had been attacked.

"The IRA were responsible but I don't know what they were looking for. I didn't even look at them. Why did they do it? They knew I had a career and

down a regular place this season."

He played a few games for the club but he had a serious injury put him out of action before he was fit enough to play again at the end of last season.

Brian Strain, the Northern Ireland representative of the Professional Footballers' Association, said Mr Gray's injuries had put his career at risk.

In a separate attack in the republican Markets area of Belfast, a man had his arm broken by a gang who attacked him with iron bars.

Alliance Party councillor Dr Philip McGarry condemned the attacks as "the latest in a series of vicious beatings many of which have left their victims with long-standing physical and psychological effects."

"If Sinn Fein really mean what they've said in the last week about peace and democratic methods, why don't they come out and condemn this incident and the other very vicious beatings that occur," Dr McGarry said.

Brendan Curran, a Sinn Fein councillor in Newry, said: "Sinn Fein is opposed to punishment beatings but the reality of the situation is that this community has no proper police force. Punishment beatings by paramilitaries have risen dramatically since the calling of the IRA ceasefire in August 1994. In the 18-month period before the ceasefire there were 10 beatings by republicans. In the 18 months since, there have been more than 270. Loyalties carried out 51 before and more than 130 since, for the same period."

NEW
CLINICALLY PROVEN

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that verruca

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Bazuka works to eliminate warts and verrucas, but also dries to form a unique water-resistant protective barrier designed to help inhibit the spread of the wart/verruca infection, without the need for plasters.

Bazuka is quick and easy to use — a complete treatment kit that is now the UK's No.1 selling remedy for verrucas, warts, corns and calluses.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

4 BRITAIN

Natural history comes alive with £12m galleries as rows of rocks in boxes left in past

Earth: Museum shakes visitors with Kobe quake

Maev Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

THERE was quite a large earthquake, nobody killed, one Heritage Secretary...

use of very small typescript labels eight feet up in the displays, and was assured that all geologists were very tall and had keen eyesight.

The new earth galleries open to the public - combined admission with the Natural History Museum adults £5.50, children £2.80 - on Saturday July 20.

Space: Probe in a hot spot

Tim Radford Science Editor

THE Galileo space probe which last week sent back a picture of Ganymede, the frozen moon of Jupiter...

with these umbrella-shaped geysers rising hundreds of kilometres above the surface. Galileo managed to sneak football-pitch sized pictures of Ganymede...



New era... the stunning earth science galleries, funded by the lottery, which open this Saturday PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

British policewomen happy with Atlanta lot

Nil pay, high temperatures and humidity, and cockroaches, but Olympics security recruits are upbeat. John Duncan reports

THE pay isn't good - nothing, zilch. The conditions are worse - eight hours standing in 100-degree heat and 110 per cent humidity.

in Atlanta, Celnwen Bridewell, a detective constable from Benfleet in Essex, could hardly be happier. "This is really a dream, to be so close to the biggest sporting event in the world," said Ms Gill.

but well, we're here aren't we. They have been here since July 1, and while their loose green slacks, light cotton shirts, green arm-patches and shiny golden badges give them a more jovial look than their English uniforms might afford, this is no holiday camp.

look as if they haven't been cleaned for 150 years," said Ms Bridewell. "The two of us share a room that is about 16ft by 12ft with two beds, two wardrobes, two desks, and that is it."



Celnwen Bridewell (left) and Bernadette Gill on their beat in Atlanta PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

13-year-old boy denies Jade killing

John Mulholland

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy was remanded into secure local authority care for eight days yesterday after he was charged with the murder of Merseyside of schoolgirl Jade Matthews.

Four police motorcycle riders escorted the vehicle. Police, who had been on guard outside the courtroom, had appealed for calm.

Botham denies knowledge of 'rife cheating'

England all-rounder says apartheid kept him apart, writes Sarah Boseley

EMINENT professional cricketers may have spoken openly of dodgy bowling practices involving smears of lip-salve or sun cream on the ball, or even roughening one side with the nails or a handy bottle-top to alter its swing...

words were taken out of context. Mike Atherton, the current England captain and David Lloyd, the coach, are among a galaxy of cricketing superstars who have been or will be subpoenaed to give evidence in the case.

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Row looms over new US move to target 'pariah' regimes • Retaliation over anti-Cuba measures still on the cards

Sanctions bill likely to infuriate EU

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

NEW trade rows between Britain, its European Union partners and the United States are looming as Congress pushes the finishing touches to legislation that will punish non-American companies investing in Iran and Libya.

After Tuesday's uneasy truce over the Helms-Burton law on Cuba, diplomats and businessmen are braced for trouble over the D'Amato-Kennedy package that will penalise firms which defy Washington's attempts to isolate these two 'pariah' regimes.

"There are going to be problems," said one US official. "It's clear that the confrontation over Helms-Burton has been largely a matter of principle. But there is much greater scope for damaging European interests on D'Amato and Kennedy."

The bill, supported by the Clinton administration, outlines sanctions against foreign firms that invest \$40 million (\$26 million) or more in the energy sectors of Libya and Iraq. Both are on the state department list of countries that support international terrorism and the US has unilaterally outlawed trade with them.

The House and Senate each have their own version of the bill, which has already been watered down after British, EU and administration lobbying. The two chambers must work out compromise legislation.

The legislation, expected within weeks, is less draconian than the Helms-Burton law. It does not allow US nationals to sue non-US firms or for visa excursions. But it is an extension of the controversial principle of "extra-territoriality" that Britain and the EU so vehemently oppose.

"It's not acceptable but it's certainly less damaging than it was," said a Foreign Office source.

"As drafted at present we don't think it will resolve concerns about Iran and Libya," said another Whitehall official. "Interfering in the legitimate business interests of third countries is unacceptable in principle to the UK."

The stakes are far higher than over Cuba, because of the size of investments in Libya by big European oil and gas companies such as Italy's Agip, Repsol of Spain and several Austrian and German companies. In Britain, Shell could also face problems.

Possible sanctions by the US include denying Export-Import Bank loans, denying export licences, barring US banks from making loans of more than \$10 million (\$6.5 million) a year to sanctioned parties, barring sanctioned financial institutions from being primary dealers of US government bonds, banning US government procurement of goods and services from sanctioned entities and imposing import sanctions.

US officials insist that the proposed measures comply with the rules of the World Trade Organisation though they could violate codes of practice laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

"We have a very significant interest in trading with Libya, and the Americans promoting it as a target is a source of concern," one British businessman said last night. "But because of the French and Italians and the conflict with Cuba the US won't carry the same weight on Libya as it did before."

Britain is arguing that, by acting unilaterally against Libya, Washington will weaken the resolve of other countries — not strong at the best of times — to abide by the limited UN sanctions already in force over the Lockerbie bombing affair.

On Iran, US officials reject criticism by arguing that the EU, which maintains a "critical dialogue" with Tehran, has done little to help isolate it over its support for terrorism and nuclear ambitions. Germany, Iran's biggest trading partner, is especially vulnerable on this point.



The Havana Libre hotel, used by Fidel Castro as his headquarters during the 1959 revolution, is run by a Spanish group and a potential target of the Helms-Burton legislation. Spain has guardedly applauded President Clinton's delaying action.

Europe reacts coolly to Clinton delaying tactics

Ian Black in London and John Palmer in Strasbourg

BRITAIN and its European Union partners yesterday gave a cool welcome to President Bill Clinton's temporary compromise over Cuban sanctions but said that retaliation was still on the cards.

President Clinton ordered the anti-Cuba measures to come into force but delayed the practical impact for six months to appease allies who threatened tit-for-tat action.

Spain, Germany and Ireland all called the decision a "step in the right direction", while Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister and president of the EU Council of Ministers, spoke of a "turnaround in European Union/United States relations".

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was glad the US had "pulled back from the brink" but regretted the decision not to waive other parts of the law. Ian Lung, the Trade Secretary, warned that Britain and other EU members could still impose visa restrictions on

US citizens and take other measures against US firms operating in Europe.

"It's not the kind of range of activities one seeks to get involved in but we cannot leave our own interests unprotected and we must bring home to the Americans the unacceptable nature of what they have been doing," he said.

Britain and other EU members are disturbed by the growing trend in the US for foreign policy and trade issues to be driven by domestic political lobbies — which become more powerful in an election year — and then forced unilaterally on allies.

"It is not a satisfactory solution," a European Union official said. "On Monday the Helms-Burton Act was not law and on Wednesday it is. Is that supposed to be good news for us?"

The anti-Cuba measures — part of the so-called Helms-Burton Act — allow lawsuits to be filed in US courts against foreign firms that own or operate the properties seized by Cuba from US citizens who were Cuban nationals before fleeing the 1959

communist revolution. US allies have protested bitterly, saying many companies would face legal claims against big investments, such as hotels and mines.

But optimists believe the worst of the row may now be over. "I would expect the situation in Washington to look very different in six months time," one diplomat said. "For a start we will have passed the presidential election and the political balance in Congress is also likely to be different."

The Canadian foreign affairs minister, Lloyd Axworthy, said that Mr Clinton's compromise appeared aimed at silencing domestic criticism until after the election.

A European Commission official observed: "We have to stop this kind of extra-territorial legislation in its tracks now over Cuba or face a really dangerous escalation in transatlantic tensions if we get the Helms-Burton principle applied more generally. There is too much at stake to allow trade conflicts of this kind to undermine the European/American partnership."

Human cost of blockade

A Correspondent in Havana

MARIA DEL CARMEN, aged 27, can barely see. She trained as a laboratory technician until her sight worsened 10 months ago.

She has been waiting for glasses on the Cuban national health service which it cannot provide. She blames the long standing American blockade.

She said: "You can wait months for medical care and get nothing. If you have friends in America they can send you things but if not, there is nothing you can do. You get angry."

Medicine and most other items can be bought on the black market with US dollars which many cannot afford. A typical monthly salary is \$13 (£2.30).

this continual lack has made Cuban people very stressed very nervous."

It has also made them heavily dependent on foreign visitors. Silvana Mayoral, a teacher, moved out of her flat to live with her mother so she could rent the flat to tourists for \$10 a day. Her anger is directed at Washington.

She said: "We do not know whether our government is to blame or not. We cannot see that. All I need to see is a country the size of America, when we are so small, coming into my home, the place where I was born, and telling me how to lead my life, what I must do. They are crazy sometimes, the Americans. What gives them the right?"

A government spokesman yesterday described the latest attempt to tighten the blockade, via the Helms-Burton Act, as not only absurd but in conflict with the interests of American citizens.

Official figures show that more than 300 representa-

tives of 180 North American firms — including commercial giants such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, General Motors, General Electric, IBM and Chase Manhattan — flew into Havana in 1994 and 1995 on business trips.

The state-run Cuban media reports daily on blockade developments and today quoted the views of Europe's leaders.

The blockade is the reason for Cuba's present economic crisis, which has worsened since the withdrawal of subsidies from the Soviet Union. Many say they would like to leave. Official figures show that 389 Cubans seeking asylum in the US have been returned since last May.

Nilda Castillo, aged 37, and her husband Ricardo, aged 38, sell juice and snacks from a makeshift stall. They cannot afford to buy their only child shoes. She said: "The only thing that interests us is that you foreigners come and bring dollars with you, so one day we will be able to leave."

'Anonymous' shows his true colours

The mystery author of a bestselling novel about Clinton's 1992 campaign has been unmasked. Ian Katz in New York reports

THE long-running hunt for the anonymous author of Primary Colours ended yesterday when the Newsweek political commentator Joe Klein admitted that he penned the best-selling roman-a-clef about the 1992 Clinton campaign.

Mr Klein, who had repeatedly denied he was the author, was finished out after a handwriting expert hired by the Washington Post matched changes on an early Primary Colours manuscript with the journalist's handwriting.

Mr Klein's appearance at a press conference yesterday afternoon brought to a close the frenzied guessing game that has gripped political and publishing circles since the novel appeared on American bookshelves in January.

A short, middle-aged man told a packed conference room at the Manhattan headquarters of Random House, which published the book: "My name is Joe Klein and I wrote Primary

Colours. I did it myself and with no secret sources." The author's apparently considerable inside knowledge of the Clinton campaign led early betting to focus on White House aides and writers with known links to the president's inner circle.

President Clinton, portrayed in the book as a lecherous and ruthless political opportunist, needed the baffled press corps, saying the novelist's identity was "the only secret I've seen kept in Washington in three years".

The Post said it had obtained the early bound manuscript through a second-hand book dealer. The cover was marked: "Confidential. For your eyes only!" and several pages contained handwritten amendments.

Challenged on the handwriting match, Mr Klein asked for five minutes to consider his answer and then called the newspaper to say: "No comment". In the past he has been

considerably less shy about denying his involvement. At a campaign event during the February presidential primaries, he shouted to other reporters: "For God's sake, definitely, I didn't write it."

Mr Klein had emerged as a prime suspect after New York magazine commissioned Donald Foster, the Vassar College professor who used a computer technique to identify a long-lost Shakespeare poem, to analyse the Primary Colours

rumours that the journalist's daughter had boasted to classmates that her daddy was rich and noted that he had recently bought a new house and car.

Throughout, the agent Kathy Robbins has resolutely refused to discuss the identity of her client. The publisher Harold Evans, head of Random House, insisted he did not know the author's identity.

The guessing game turned the novel into a publishing phenomenon with US hardback sales of more than 1.1 million. Along with a \$1 million (£250,000) film deal, it is estimated the novel will earn its author more than \$6 million.

One mystery remains: why would a journalist go to such great lengths to reject credit for a runaway success?

"It went from being a sporting joke to an egregious and unacceptable lie," Kurt Andersen, the editor of New York magazine, said. "When he began categorically denying it, he got caught in a web of lies."

Conspiracy theorists offer another explanation. Could Mr Klein have been working with someone who needed to guard his or her anonymity very closely?

manuscript. The academic discovered similarities between language use in the novel and Mr Klein's style of writing. Both Anonymous and the Newsweek writer showed a fondness for adjectives ending in "y", such as "talky", "slimy" and "sleazy".

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MEPs tackle influence of lobbyists

John Palmer in Strasbourg

MEMBERS of the European Parliament took a first timid step yesterday towards bringing the activities of lobbyists under public scrutiny.

After seven years of inconclusive debate, the parliament agreed that in future its members will have to make annual declarations of all gifts and benefits received. Lobbying organisations will have to reveal all payments and gifts made to MEPs.

Resolutions setting up a framework for regulating members' interests and establishing a register for lobbying organisations were passed by overwhelming majorities. Similar moves were deadlocked earlier this year, with

Main points

- Each MEP must make a detailed declaration of professional activities and list all paid activities.
- Declarations will be available for public scrutiny.
- MEPs must refuse any gift, payment or benefit which might influence their vote. All such gifts, payments and benefits must be declared before any relevant debate.
- No MEP may accept financial support or the provision of staff or material except those supplied by the European Parliament.

British Conservative MEPs split three ways. All voted in favour of the new rules yesterday.

It is estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 lobbying instances — ranging from multinational companies to ecological organisations — are active in seeking to sway the increasingly influential European Parliament.

"We have taken a modest but an important step which will throw a powerful public light on the relations between MEPs and lobbyists," Guy Ford, the Labour MEP for

Manchester West, said. Mr Ford's resolution will establish a register of members' interests which will be open to public inspection in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

The coalition of socialists, independent leftwing parties and Greens which spearheaded the call for stricter controls on MEPs' links with lobbies only won the day after making important concessions. It attempts to ban MEPs from accepting any gift worth more than €500 had to be replaced with a requirement to register all "significant" gifts.

"The European Parliament will now work out the details of how this should work," Mr Ford said.

"But I think we all know there is a difference between taking a bottle of wine in return for undertaking a speaking engagement or accepting a cup of coffee from a multinational company, and accepting several crates of champagne or an all-expenses-paid overseas trip."

In trying to work out a detailed code of conduct for MEPs, the European Parliament found itself torn between the differing traditions in member states. In the Nordic countries parliamentarians are forbidden to accept any gifts; others take a more relaxed view.

Jean-Thomas Nordmann, a French Christian Democrat who moved the motion on members' interests, said: "We had to achieve a maximum consensus of a big majority of our members to ensure that anything could be done at all. The code of conduct will remain bound by the stricter laws in some of our member states. But I believe the publicity which will surround the need to declare all payments or benefits received in future will have a salutary effect."

Throughout the debate references were made to unnamed members and their links with powerful commercial lobbying organisations. These included MEPs who allegedly accepted paid researchers, office staff and foreign trips from organisations seeking to influence European legislation on issues such as safety and other



Richard Holbrooke addresses reporters in Belgrade after his first round of talks with Serbia's president

PHOTOGRAPH: DARKO VOJNOVIC

US envoy leaves Belgrade empty-handed

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

SERBIA'S president, Slobodan Milosevic, yesterday failed to deliver the goods to Richard Holbrooke, the American architect of Bosnia's faltering Dayton peace accord, in four hours of "inconclusive" talks in Belgrade.

Mr Holbrooke — recalled from his Wall Street banking job to prevent a collapse of the Dayton process — urged Mr Milosevic to deal finally with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and an indicted war criminal deemed an obstacle to Bosnia's post-war elections due on September 14.

any progress today and I will not characterise the talks except to say they were inconclusive," the United States envoy said later. "Confidential negotiations require confidentiality."

Mr Holbrooke is to return to Belgrade this afternoon after talks in Zagreb with Croatia's president, Franjo Tudjman, and will leave for Washington tomorrow.

Spearheading intense international diplomatic activity, Mr Holbrooke warned Mr Milosevic that it was up to him to remove his former protégé or face economic sanctions.

Dayton forbids any individual indicted for war crimes from holding public office or participating in elections. The issue came to a head

last week after Robert Frowick, the US ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, announced he would decide tomorrow if the ballot can go ahead or whether Mr Karadzic's Serb Democratic Party should be barred.

Mr Holbrooke is regarded as one of the few Western diplomats thought capable of cajoling rival Bosnian powers into line with the Dayton agreement.

But Mr Milosevic, seen by many as the real architect of Bosnia's war, has so far been unwilling to risk the domestic political consequences of forcing Mr Karadzic out of office and into the jurisdiction of the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Mr Holbrooke has indicated that the US is ready to use the threat of sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia to push Mr Milosevic into line.

But as so often before, the international community is divided. Russia opposes sanctions and Britain backs a graduated approach that first punishes the Bosnian Serbs.

There are also divisions over whether to empower the Nato-led peace implementation force, I-For, actively to pursue Mr Karadzic. General Ratko Mladic and others.

Sounding tough, Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, warned yesterday: "All options are open... The road between The Hague and Pale is getting shorter, shorter and shorter."

In the last few days there has been enormous diplomatic activity. We are putting all the pressure possible on the parties to comply with Dayton.

But Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said attempts to seize Mr Karadzic on a warrant issued by the Hague tribunal could undermine the Bosnian elections.

The UN said yesterday that assaults on minority Serbs in Sarajevo's suburbs were worsening and the mainly Muslim Bosnian government was "doing absolutely nothing" about it.

More than 50,000 Serbs fled when the suburbs reverted to government rule under the Dayton accord, but 8,000 to 10,000 stayed after assurances they would not face reprisals.

Leader comment, page 6

France to slash defence forces

Paul Webster in Paris

FRANCE'S sixth marine paratroop regiment, whose spirit could not be broken even after defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, is to be disbanded after a government decision to scrap 38 elite units to create a slimmer down defence force.

General Marcel Bigeard, a former junior defence minister and France's most decorated soldier, was among the first to react, saying he would fight a rearguard action to save his parachute regiment.

But the ruthlessness of the measures announced yesterday by the defence minister, Charles Millon, leaves Gen Bigeard helpless.

At least 150,000 men will no longer be needed as national service is ended and barracks are closed in towns dependent on soldiers for centuries.

The army's strength will drop from 240,000 to 140,000. A third of its regiments will be disbanded by next year, although the Foreign Legion and the Eurocorps will be spared.

The navy will lose ships such as the Clémenceau, an aircraft-carrier at the centre of French foreign policy in Lebanon, the Gulf and former Yugoslavia.

President Jacques Chirac ordered the cuts in February when he called for an all-professional army along British lines built around a rapid action force of up to 60,000 ready to intervene outside the country.

The impact of the reorganisation could rebound against the Gaullist-led government — the defence forces provide the party's most reliable electorate.

The hardest hit area will be the north-east, particularly the Lorraine. Cities such as Toul and Contrexville will lose entire bases.

Apart from the doomed regiments — 11 of which are stationed in Germany — about 40 big units closely associated with cities such as Nancy and Verdun will be dissolved or relocated.

Arabs close their ranks against Netanyahu

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, today pays his first official visit to a neighbouring Arab capital, bearing assurances that his government is committed to peace in the region.

But as he prepares to fly to Cairo for talks with the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, there were clear signs of growing Arab cooperation with the new Israeli government's reluctance to spell out its policies.

Todays brief trip was described by an aide to Mr Netanyahu as a "get acquainted visit". The Egyptians, however, will be looking for rather more than a social call.

A flurry of diplomatic activity this week has brought warnings from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians that Israel cannot expect to have everything its own way in coming negotiations.

Syria's emphatic rejection of any talks which do not include the future of the occupied Golan Heights was predictable. So too was the milder chiding of Egyptian officials whose chief concern is to promote President Mubarak as a leading player in the peace process.

King Hussein of Jordan, whose dramatic embrace of Israel in 1994 shocked many of his subjects, is now having to steer a delicate and potentially perilous course between his new ally and his Arab neighbours.

Jordan's dilemma is compounded by Palestinian suspicion that Israel could offend King Hussein, who has forces were routed in 1967. His repeated denials of any such ambition have been undermined by the continued hammering of the Israeli right for a Palestinian homeland east of the River Jordan.

Hong Kong man is first foreigner executed post-war as Vietnam gets tough on drugs

Those caught can expect no mercy, writes Nick Cumming-Bruce in Ho Chi Minh City

ALMOST nobody noticed when Vietnamese security men escorted Wong Chi Sinh from a Ho Chi Minh City jail to a shooting range in the suburb of Thu Duc.

A firing squad mislaid a volley of shots and then — in line with official procedure — one of the officers stepped forward to put a single bullet in his head to ensure he was dead.

Wong, a Hong Kong Briton, was shot in June last year for smuggling 5kg of heroin, becoming the first foreigner to be executed in post-war Vietnam. He will not be the last.

Two more Hong Kong men may follow in his footsteps. Ho Kam Weng, aged 34, and Kong Chong Sam, aged 26, were seized at Ho Chi Minh City's airport in March carrying false papers and, according to customs officers, 18kg of heroin.

A decade after Vietnam's communist leaders embarked on reforms and ended the country's cold war isolation, they are grappling with a surge in drug trafficking. Western experts believe the country is being considered as a transit route by the region's drug cartels and gangsters in the Vietnamese communities of Australia, the United States and Canada.

Vietnam's proximity to the heroin producers of northern Burma and its long land borders with Laos and Cambodia make it accessible for traffickers. A long coastline adds to its allure.

In the first three months of this year the authorities arrested 290 traffickers, seizing more than 32kg of heroin — as much as was reported seized in the whole of 1994 — and 17kg of opium. But diplomats have

no doubt they are catching only minor players.

Those caught can expect little mercy. Like Singapore and Malaysia, Vietnam executes traffickers carrying more than a specified quantity of drugs. But unlike their partners in the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), Hanoi does nothing to advertise its draconian penalties.

Vietnam's penal code allows courts to impose

At least seven people were sentenced to death last year

sentences ranging from 12 years imprisonment to death for those caught with more than 3kg of opium. Perhaps prompted by the spectacle of rampant drug abuse and a roaring trade across the northern border in China, the Vietnamese

authorities appear to be enforcing the death penalty more often.

At least seven people were sentenced to death last year and another two in early 1996. Several of these were at first sentenced to life imprisonment but had the penalty raised to death by a higher tribunal.

Vietnam's concern is not just with the international drugs trade. The country has about 200,000 known addicts, most supplied with opium or its derivatives from the mountains and the tribal areas on the north-western border with Laos.

Most of Vietnam's injecting addicts shoot up with needles already used by others, accelerating the spread of HIV.

Opium cultivation has fallen sharply in the past three years through crop eradication and substitution drives — but levels of addiction have not.

A five-year government plan has been proposed for bringing together a variety

of agencies and non-governmental organisations to work on curbing drug demand and combatting trafficking. But the lead role assigned to a committee dealing with Vietnam's hilltribe minorities leaves Western drug-control experts wondering whether Hanoi's leaders fully appreciate the threat they face.

Vietnam may be equipped with a pervasive internal security apparatus for suppressing political dissent, but its anti-drug agency is still in its infancy.

Authorities are seeking to build up its drug-enforcement capability as a step towards dealing with more traffickers. But the arrest of an ethnic Chinese with 25kg of amphetamines he had produced in Ho Chi Minh City illustrates another potential menace.

Western drug-enforcement officials once accepted official assertions that there were no heroin laboratories in Vietnam. Now, they say the possibility cannot be excluded.

Opposition leader asks EU to impose sanctions on Burma

John Palmer in Strasbourg

BURMA'S opposition leader, Aung San Sun Kyi, will appeal to the European Union today to impose economic sanctions on the military dictatorship in Rangoon, in support of the growing national movement for democracy and human rights.

She will address members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg in a videotaped interview smuggled out of Burma earlier this month by a foreign businessman.

After the video has been shown, MEPs will debate a resolution calling for sanctions.

Aung San Sun Kyi makes it clear she believes only the imposition of sanctions can help ensure the success of the movement for democracy and human rights.

Glenys Kinnock, the Labour MEP for South Wales, who will move the resolution, said yesterday. Mrs Kinnock said that the Burmese democracy leader had been secretly interviewed by a Dutch journalist, who then passed the video to a businessman.

The European Commission is coming under pressure to publish its investigation into the extent of forced prison labour in Burma which, if proved, could lead to the withdrawal of special low tariffs on EU imports from Burma.

Ireland's foreign minister, Dick Spring, is to fly to Jakarta this weekend to discuss the human rights situation in Burma with the foreign ministers of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean).

Last week, Asean announced that it was upgrading its relations with Rangoon.

"I will be taking every opportunity to discuss with our friends in Asean the very real concern felt throughout the European Union about the situation regarding democracy and human rights in Burma," Mr Spring said in Strasbourg yesterday.

The EU is likely to follow up the meeting with Asean by sending a team of foreign ministers from EU member states to Rangoon to warn the military government about the growing international reaction to abuses of human rights.

Climate change 'worse than war' — Gummer

Past Brown in Geneva

THE United States prodded the climate change talks forward yesterday, repudiating its own industry lobby, with a White House endorsement of realistic and binding targets to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Timothy Wirth, the under-secretary for global affairs, attacked "naysayers and special interests bent on belittling, attacking and obstructing climate change science. So let's take a false issue off the table; there can be no question but that the findings [on climate change] meet the highest standards of scientific integrity."

The US statement on the ground from under the fossil fuel lobby. The lobby has tried throughout 10 days of talks in Geneva to block political endorsement of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which says pollution of the at-

mosphere is interfering with the climate.

Mr Wirth said there was no alternative but to tackle the problems created by climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The US statement was one of 80 by politicians who are in Geneva to try to hammer out an agreed statement to carry negotiations forward to 1997.

The talks had appeared stalled, with the industry lobby and oil and coal states blocking paths to progress.

Mr Wirth made it clear that a deal was essential to carry the process forward.

"That must not be allowed to happen again... The 'after you' attitude to reducing greenhouse gases is not enough. I do not think anyone in this hall is so old that he or she will not be affected by climate change unless he or she falls under a tram here in Geneva before the end of the conference."

Mr Gummer attacked Australia by name for its refusal to endorse the urgency of the problem. "They are prepared to put their coal exports to Japan as a greater priority than the future of the next generations of Australians," he said.

Mr Gummer put forward a seven-point plan for cutting emissions in the industrial world, including proposals for taxing aviation fuel (currently free of tax).

Green groups were delighted at the turn of events. Merylyn Hedger of the World Wide Fund for Nature said: "The fossil fuel lobby is totally blown out of the water."

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Arrest the war criminals
They must be found even if Nato has to stay on

THE MUSLIMS were lined up on one side of a dirt road 17 miles northwest of Srebrenica. Some had their hands tied with wire behind their backs. Bosnian Serbs gunned them down from the other side, where the ground is now covered with spent bullet casings. A year later, international war crimes investigators are digging out the crumbling bodies in a muggy heat, surrounded by a cloud of bugs and butterflies. They have already exhumed 66 bodies in this single mass grave: there are more.
This is the inhuman reality, soberly conveyed in news agency reports, behind the new drive to expose, deprive of influence and if possible arrest the prominent Serb war criminals ultimately responsible for these and other massacres. The US envoy Richard Holbrooke, architect of the Dayton peace accords, was in Belgrade yesterday, trying to make up lost ground. Article IX of Dayton says that all parties should cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes — a commitment ignored by the Bosnian Serbs and treated perfunctorily by President Slobodan Milosevic. Full compliance with this provision would probably put Mr Milosevic in the dock as well as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. Instead, as the UN high representative Carl Bildt has just reported, the territory of Serbia's client state, the Republic of Srpska, is harbouring up to 50 indicted war criminals. (A further 15 are on the territories controlled by the Sarajevo government or Croatia). Mr Holbrooke is seeking a lesser, but still substantial, degree of compliance — so far avoided by the Serbs — which would ensure that no such persons are involved in the forthcoming elections. Mr Karadzic has so far wriggled his way out of this commitment, and Mr Holbrooke intends, it is said, to "knock him off the political map." This is an irreducible aim, and counter-threats by

the Bosnian Serbs must be resisted or else a new cycle of blackmail and concessions will begin.
Mr Bildt has counselled caution, fearing that the result will simply be a boycott of the elections by the ruling Bosnian Serb party. Yet to do nothing will risk a much more justified boycott now being threatened from Sarajevo by President Izetbegovic. In the end the crux of the problem has to be faced: as long as the leading figures accused of war crimes are at large, they will defy and disrupt the peace process.
It is true that the Nato peacekeeping force is not currently mandated to hunt down alleged war criminals but only to arrest them if they happen to be encountered. Now that warrants have been issued from the Hague, the problem can no longer be dodged. The Nato forces took over in Bosnia claiming they would act more decisively than the much-maligned UN. On this issue they have sat on their hands. Instead they should saturate with troops the areas frequented by those under indictment so that arrests can take place in the so that normal operations. Another possibility is — as France has suggested — to strengthen the Security Council mandate. Yesterday's statement by the Nato Secretary-General that "the road between the Hague and Pale is getting shorter" — a step in the right direction — if it is more than cosmetic.
Postponing the election if necessary means, of course, committing the Nato to a longer stay. But no convincing argument has ever been offered for their plan to pull out by the end of the year — except the pressure of US presidential politics. With Bob Dole now in disarray, need Bill Clinton care? Mr Bildt says he would prefer a "flawed election" to none at all, but the immaturity given so far to these suspected war criminals is a far greater flaw — and an insult to those buried in mass graves.

Labour can't duck this challenge
It must reverse the obscene inequalities it may soon inherit

GORDON BROWN is right — privatising welfare, as set out by yesterday's Treasury leak, would be wrong. And so are moves which lead to privatisation: allowing pensions to erode by being linked only to a prices index; reducing unemployment pay from 12 months to six; falling to help poor children stay in school beyond 16. But hold on. Which party is refusing to restore the earnings index for pensions? Labour. Which party is refusing to restore unemployment benefits to 12 months? Labour. Which party is still dithering over withdrawing child benefit after 16 from drawing off parents to ensure poorer parents can be given generous allowances to keep their children in education? Labour.
The Chancellor dismissed yesterday's leaked Treasury paper on the "shrinking state" as unrealistic crystal ball gazing by "young kids in the office". But old kids have been at the same task too and we don't need a leak to prove that. Over three years ago when he was the Chancellor's Chief Secretary, Michael Portillo began an operation under which Whitehall's main spending departments had to review their programmes to redefine the boundary between public and private provision. Each was asked whether the services which the state was currently providing could be shifted to individuals, families or employers. Over at Social Security, Peter Lilley has been doing just that by manoeuvring through Parliament a succession of "readjust-

ments" to sick pay, disability and unemployment benefits which have required families and employers to plug the gaps. He did not go as far as Chile, but then the Treasury kids had better take a second look at Chile. Even there, private insurance schemes found too many people were "uninsurable". The leak could not have been more fortunate for Labour, currently under fire from an old chief, Barbara Castle, for failing to restore the basic pension earnings index. Even more serious is its abandonment of the Social Justice Commission's guaranteed minimum pension, which would have ended means tests for almost four million pensioners. Of course there are poor good ideas in Labour's new welfare package: a new flexibility which would allow claimants to "borrow" future earnings to get back to work; new incentives for the unemployed to take short-term work; new in-work benefits for the low paid. But the radical restructuring which was promised when it launched a second successive "think the unthinkable" review of social security has not materialised. Its big ideas, like subsidies to employers to take on long-term unemployed, lack take on. Ludicrously, it pretends it will raise more than the Tories by stopping fraud. Most serious of all, it is still ducking the biggest challenge: inequality. Labour needs to do a Lilley in reverse: a gradual but radical reversal of the obscene inequalities generated by ministers. Nothing is more important.

The vote race begins at Putney
But why Sir James is fighting David Mellor remains a puzzle

OTHERWISE intelligent Conservatives shake and tremble at the mere mention of the name of Goldsmith. The Mexico-based grocer causes nightmares among impressionable MPs in many marginal seats, with his threat to challenge any Tory who will not endorse his demand for a referendum on the European for a single currency. So why, of all the places in the land, has Sir James himself chosen to do battle in Putney, and why is the target of his crusade not one of the arch-Europeans of the Cabinet — Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine or John Gummer — but the lesser figure of David Mellor?
Putney is a curious choice as the embodiment of the Euromania against which Sir James is campaigning (oddly, in France he is not nearly as hostile to Europe as he is here, but he does not like us to know that). If Putney is symbolic of anything, it is for its post-war council housing and for its part in

the "Wandsworth effect", for which Lady Thatcher and Kenneth Baker sacrificed so much in the 1980s. It is not the site of some epic ancestral battle for British freedom against the foreign invader. It is not the site of the Bank of England or of any other symbol of British sovereignty. Perhaps we have missed something, but the choice of Putney remains an intriguing mystery.
Sir James's own answer to the question is not convincing. "It is three miles from where I live," he told the BBC this week. Leaving to one side the fact that Sir James does not seem to live anywhere in this country very often, the fact is that his UK hacienda lies in the Conservative seat, Richmond Park, represented by a Foreign Office minister, Jeremy Hanley. Quits why Sir James thinks a challenge to Mr Mellor is more resonant than one to Mr Hanley is yet another mystery, but it does not say much for his political judgment.



Letters to the Editor
Why John Birt must not get his way

THANK you for your continued coverage of John Birt's plans for the BBC World Service. It is the only way we hear about them.
Birt says the World Service must not be regarded as a garden that needs preserving. I heartily agree, and believe most people who work here would like to see the service restructured. But we have frozen us in time, and forced a commitment and creative work-force to devote their energies to maintaining the status quo.
Since I came to the World Service eight years ago, I have changed continually, never as fast as many of us would have liked, but the rapid developments that happened under John Tusa were subsequently stalled largely by successive cuts to our budget.
We now have pacier, more frequent, more in-depth and, yes, costlier. We, too, did rolling programmes during the Gulf war, but with existing staff, working double our normal hours, and more. Now doing special programmes, or "going rolling", is part of the ethos — and yes, it's generally done out of good will, not all the time. There are a lot of things that are different about the World Service that Mr Birt doesn't seem to know. Before his June bombshell, we were preparing for the biggest change yet — splitting

the network, with one channel running 24-hours, news and current affairs. It was pretty ambitious as there was less, not more, money.
The World Service would welcome a dynamic management which recognised its potential rather than thinking nostalgically of us as some vestige of Empire. We have a virtual global monopoly. No station comes close to our reach and reputation. This, despite the fact that much of our audience has to struggle to hear us on the scratchy short-wave frequencies.
We must have better audibility if we are to compete in the new media, if Mr Birt is so keen on cost-effectiveness, why not have the World Service supplying curricula for Radio 4? We're cheaper, and with the money we could develop the sort of service we've dreamed of providing.
Judy Swallow,
Presenter, Newshour,
BBC World Service,
Bush House, Strand,
London WC2B 4PH

and used well. I know BBC broadcasters who go out of their way to use plain English — and you can't say that of most other broadcasting organisations. The English language is Britain's greatest asset. The BBC uses it with care and skill for the millions who are listening in a non-mother tongue. Anything that threatens good plain English must be opposed.
Christie Maher,
Director,
Plain English Campaign,
PO Box 3, New Mills,
Stockport SK12 4QP.

At the recent Hands Off the BBC public meeting referred to by Paul Foot (Comment page July 15), I heard Charles Wheeler put the case for an urgent defence of standards in BBC programming-making and question the roles of colleagues Tony Hall, Alan Yentob and Michael Jackson.
The ability of these men to fight for what they believe in is under public scrutiny and the coming weeks will show the extent of their moral courage. In the words of Thomas Paine, "These are the times that try men's souls". As far as women's souls are concerned, Liz Forgan has demonstrated her disgust by leaving.
Brian Pritchard,
47 Derby Road,
Wattford WD1 2LZ.

Equal calls for a resignation

MANY thanks to Donna Covey, the GMB's Equal Opportunities Officer, for stating so positively what some women have thought for a long time — that Kamlesh Bahl, Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is not fighting the battle for women's equality (Why Kamlesh Bahl must go, July 16).
The EOC was set up to move forward the role and opportunities for all women against a background of prejudice and backward attitudes that have prevailed for far too long. We shall need women of courage, active and supportive of each other, and institutions that will move us onward, to the day they are no longer required. The EOC is falling us in this task. This quoango needs a new change in direction.
Ellida Smith,
216 Stow Hill,
Newport, Gwent NP9 4HA.

More of your Irish solutions

AN effective peace process should include a drastic enhancement of the Northern Ireland summer calendar. New Epsoms, stadiums and Glynedoures for the province could be as vital to the future as factories. "Today the marches, tomorrow the horse races," as Auden might have said.
Theresa Synges,
Diamond Terrace,
London SE10.



A better place to boldy go

JIM Head, leader of the Voyager satellite camera team, thinks the images are "absolutely incredible" (Probe maps out Earth-like moon, July 12). Torrence Johnson reckons they make Ganymede "even more exciting". Donald Gurnett thinks it "probably has a tenuous atmosphere". What a surprise. They're hardly going to be "The whole thing's a waste of money, please fire the lot of us."
We don't expect any better from them, but when Tim Radford calls the journey "heart-in-the-mouth stuff", what does he think he's doing about? It's only a lump of metal. He should be asking: "What's the point?"
I am sick of reading stories

Orchestra pits

WHILST leader of the Philharmonia some years back, I was in rehearsal with Sir Edward Heath (Letters, July 15-17). There was a considerable amount of confusion, after which one of my colleagues said it all when he shouted "Order, Order!" Rehearsing the Ecotica Symphony, Karajan and Giulini vanished alarmingly, but a quick discussion during the tea-break between the first oboe, first trumpet and myself soon established a credible opposition.
We had comparable experiences with our then principal conductor, but his big advantage over Sir Edward was that he was a gifted amateur.
Peter Thomas,
Leader, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra,
Paradise Place, Birmingham.

Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipts. We may edit them: shorter letters are more likely to appear.

A Country Diary

DRINGWALL: The sighting of wild goats next to the A9 just south of Inverness reminded me of a meeting of the Highland Goat Club, held in conjunction with the Orkney Goat Club, at the Dingwall Auction Mart not far from Inverness. The success of the show and the fact that entries were up on previous years, with 109 entrants from 18 different exhibitors, was in no small part due to the efforts of the secretary, Douglas Scobie, and many others. The breed names — such as Toggenburg, Saanen and Alpine — were fascinating as were the goats' individual names, such as Rowangate Dinglebell and Tweedside Sella. I had jokingly said that I would take one of my African pygmy goats, Trivia, along but, apart from the fact there was no class for the breed, as soon as I saw the standard of turnout there would have been no way I could have prepared Trivia to anywhere near the standard of goats at the show, which were immaculate. The judge was Mr G Godfrey, all the way up from Lincolnshire, and I would not have liked to have been in his shoes choosing all the winners of groups and classes, with prizes such as certificates, rosettes, cups, bowls and shields. The enthusiasm was almost infectious as I watched the judging, and then walked round to see each goat in its spotless enclosure. At one stage, a local reporter persuaded me to hold one of the nannies whilst a photograph was taken. With a beard as long as mine, the caption in the local newspaper was appropriate. It seemed strange to find only one goat at the show with horns but I was assured that horns can be dangerous when goats are being handled. I was taken to task for calling the goats "nannies" and "billies", but the judge told me that the terms "bucks" and "does" had invaded us from America. I will continue to call them "nannies" and "billies" and will start a campaign to reverse this Americanism.
RAY COLLIER

The adventures of Tom Sawyer

TOM Sawyer, general secretary of the Labour Party, has recently aired his views on party re-organisation (Outbreaks of dissent conceal inner discipline as Labour paper looms, July 2). This is not a mere internal matter, because the Labour Party has traditionally been a voice for the poor, the unemployed etc. and what Sawyer appears to want to do is to close it down as an autonomous, democratically organised movement.
He plans to replace the NEC with policy forums. These currently exist. Nobody knows who is on them; the members do not represent anyone; they do not report back to anyone; they are not allowed to elect their own chair or minutes-taker; and they are not allowed to vote on anything.
The NEC itself will be "restructured", ie the rules rigged so leftwingers like Dennis Skinner and myself can't

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom right of the page.

Diary Matthew Norman

THE annual search for the country's most amusing press officer or press officer appears to be over. A medium-sized package, about right for an answering machine, arrived here yesterday morning, addressed to our personal-finance editor, Margaret Hughes. It came from pensions firm Scottish Life, and in it was a pigeon. A homing pigeon, in fact. In a "Yours feathery" letter, he introduced himself as Donald, and invited Margaret (one of 77 journalists to receive a pigeon) to a press conference on August 12. Although the box spoke of being "RSPCA-approved", the society is furious — a response which has John Allison, at time of writing director and the man who approved this brainwave of London PR firm Claren don, "disappointed and sad". In the hope of cheering him up, we have taken the liberty of putting some extra air holes in Donald's box (the bird was dead and flew off shortly after 9am). Even now, with the words "live bird" replaced by "dead fish", it is transporting a delicious herring to Mr Allison in Edinburgh, with our warmest compliments.

ALSO despatched yesterday was the very first Bolmondely Relief parcel. In it were the following items of clothing, purchased from Age Concern: two Mrs Virginia Bolmondely: stretchy white gloves (50p) and matching white plastic handbag (£2.99), and a turquoise and silver shift dress (size 34); and for poor Bolmondely: an eccentric black bobble hat (100 per cent turbo acrylic; £1), a spoty blue and white bow tie (10p), and a green and white sub-Pringle woolly waistcoat (£4.99). No price appears for the dress, since it was donated from her private wardrobe by my colleague, Emily Barr. Farrels such as this will be sent out regularly to the Bolmondelys (the next one will contain a pot of Gentleman's Relish) until the new pay rises take their combined income above its current mark of nearly £110,000.

WITH the shadow-cabinet elections upon us, one MP views the frenzied plotting with amusement. Ken Livingstone even recalls how, one year, a colleague came over to him to say "I voted for you, Ken" — an achievement he pointed out, since Mr Livingstone wasn't actually standing that year.

MANDY Mandelson, MP: An Apology. In yesterday's Diary, it was stated that after a brief dispute with a Guardian writer at a civil-service reception last week, Mr Mandy Mandelson gave voice to the phrase "Nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-nurgh" — a claim Mr Mandelson denied through his spokesman Oofy Wegg-Prosser. We now learn that we were indeed mistaken... there were, in fact, only five "nurghs" and not six. We apologise to Mr Mandelson for any distress.

THE noble Lord Archer and his wife Mary are interviewed in this week's Hello! magazine, and a splendid read it is too. It is intriguing to learn, for example, that Lord Archer is no longer interested in making money, while Mary, a former director of Anglia TV, says that Jeffrey still bankers after a government position. Perhaps he might yet achieve it, for in his life he seems finally to have come to a measure of self-knowledge. When asked what has kept his marriage going for 30 years, Lord Archer said: "Probably the fact that we don't see that much of each other."

ALL those shocked by Princess Diana's in-attic temper tantrum on Tuesday, when she ditched almost 100 offer charities in a bid to punish the Queen for removing her HRH, are hereby referred to Tuesday's Daily Mail. There, on page eight, same and rational Paul Johnson described Diana as "the sanest woman I've met". Yup, it looks like the Nostra damus de nos jours has done it again.

I THINK WE CAN DROP THE BALKANS, IT'S NEVER NAMED RADWAN KARADZIC

Mr Brown's fear about the future

IS LABOUR ready for government? To judge from the performance of Gordon Brown, the answer must be no. There has seldom been a more ridiculous agitation from a minister presumptive than Mr Brown's reaction to yesterday's leaked document, which makes the sensational disclosure that the Treasury is thinking about the future. Mr Brown was devastated to discover that this thinking was going on "behind closed doors". Can he be that innocent? He was appalled that the thinking encompassed radical scenarios for the welfare state. Are these really supposed to be deleted from the agenda of the governing class? Mr Brown's answer to both questions appears to be yes. His vehemence rose far above cheap politics. He was at his most thoroughly disgusted. Evidently, he believes that civil servants have no business thinking the unthinkable. And he imagines that conducting such work in private is a crime against the constitution. This is the dismal paradigm our politics now follows. The leaked document is, on the contrary, reassuring. We learn that the Treasury has not been pummelled into brain-death. In some part of its operations, it sets bright young stars the task of imagining the future, especially the future of the state, for which it is economically responsible. This would seem an elementary precaution. With constrained resources, expanding welfare demands and the danger of falling provision, an insurance-based approach in the next millennium cannot be axiomatically discounted. User-payment for higher education is not an anachronistic insanity. Private funding for roads is not off the edge of the map of democratic options. The only matter for regret is that the Treasury's speculations about uncomfortable matters were leaked. They should be published in full. For they expose how tentative is the thinking that politicians are prepared to engage in. These are real issues, yet politicians are too nervous to address them outside the closed doors Mr Brown piously deplors. Even behind doors, we must infer, Labour is least of all inclined to do so. The governing party is as constipated as the Opposition.

them. As an account of the future terrain, however, it tells truths that no politician can get away from. In the Conservative Party, arguments about the future of the state will loom large, especially if the party is out of power. Kenneth Clarke is aware of this. In opposition, it is not only Europe that will tear the Tories apart, perhaps making his position impossible to sustain. The case for the minimal state, along the lines of one of the Treasury's futuristic possibilities, will divide neo-Thatcherites from One Nationites more sharply than at any time in the last 17 years. Freedom from office will liberate souls in the party who are ideologically, if covertly, committed to a radical attack on orthodoxies they have hitherto defended.

MR CLARKE sees his mission as being to make sure the minimal state does not come to pass. If the Treasury's analogy with New Gingrich's followers in the US is apt, he will win the argument. Gingrich's Contract With America has taken two years to live and almost die, its architect discredited, his party divided. His project incapable of achieving the political support he once thought was in the bag. A Contract With Britain, as the young Treasury spooks designate their most eye-catching option already seems an unpropitious choice of imagery. But the Tories will not be alone in having to address these questions. There will also be a government. It will face huge pressures on spending. One can reliably predict

A man's home is someone else's castle



George Monbiot

FOR the last fortnight, the assorted voices of fear about the strange case of the owner-occupier squatters. In 1977, Jim Sykes and Sheila Fahy slipped into a derelict house in Islington. They lived, according to the Daily Mail, like ghosts, neither tending the front garden nor putting out rubbish, but they registered the property as their address. They acquired "possessory title" and, a few weeks ago, sold the house for £103,000. The case has now been complicated by the discovery on the part of the sedulous Sunday Times of the original owner of the property, some poor old chap who, like Tess of the D'Urbervilles, was probably perfectly happy until he was told he should have been entitled to greater things. He said he would be seeking legal advice to establish his rights. He does not seem to have much of a case. According to the 1960 Limitation Act, "No action shall be brought by any person to recover any land after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the right of action accrued to him". Mr Rosamond left his chance slip by in 1969. MPs are reported to be outraged, and are making "angry demands for a change in the law". They are on dangerous ground. The Palace of Westminster is stuffed with landowners whose family fortunes were built on the statute of limitation. Many of the commoners, copyholders and small freeholders who were divested of their rights by enclosure had a solid legal case for retaining their land, but no practical means of fighting it. In the Scottish Highlands, thousands of cottars and runrig commoners were shoved off by the ancestors of some of the noble lords at the point of a pike, and forced on to ships bound for the Americas. The great-grandchildren of some of these dispossessed are still alive today. All landownership is, of course, in one way or another questionable. How many legal rights were thrust aside or superceded by William I's seizure of England? Or by the Belgae's dispossession of the former inhabitants of Kent? The notion of the absolute ownership of land and standing property is a comparatively novel one, even in many parts of Britain.

quietly nudged by their more calculating colleagues, some of their constituents could stir up a lively fuss. The Advisory Service for Squatters reports that most enquiries about the use of the Limitation Act come from middle-class owner-occupiers who have surreptitiously extended their gardens on to derelict lanes or into a deceased neighbour's field. The historical limitation of land claims is an explosive issue all over the world. Germany's reunification treaty allowed for the return of property seized by the Nazis up until 1945, and the Communists from 1948 onwards, but not for the restitution of land expropriated by the Soviet occupation of 1945-1948. Six years on, the former owners are still fighting furiously for recognition. In South Africa, the Department of Land Affairs — which is handing back land seized by the apartheid government — has decided to consider only those claims arising since 1913. It has so far resisted several applications dating back to the 17th century. In the former Yugoslavia, just as much as on the West Bank, historical assertions and redactions of ownership are among the sources of enduring conflict. The Helms-Burton Law currently pitting the United States against its trading partners is all about old land claims — it imposes penalties on foreign companies who do business with Cuba which was seized from US companies or citizens during the revolution in 1959. The legislation raises the question of how the plaintiffs got their land in the first place. Expropriation and fraud were of course, the means by which all white land-ownership in the Americas and Caribbean was established. All over the world, statutes of limitation were devised to support landowners' claims against those of the dispossessed. But as most of the major land-grabbing in Britain was completed long ago, the progressive way to change the law may be to reduce, rather than extend, the period of limitation. Jim Paton of the Advisory Service for Squatters suggests six years, which would bring land law into line with laws governing other forms of property. This might encourage the socially beneficial functions of squatting, ie pulling empty and derelict houses back into circulation. If one really does want to go ahead and repeal the Limitation Act, then let them, and we'll all have fun scouring our family trees for evidence of peasant proprietorship in the 11th century. It would be optimistic, however, to expect the owner-occupiers on whose behalf they have been huffing to thank them for it.

George Monbiot presents Going Back on Radio 4 tonight at 7.20pm

For all Mrs Thatcher's hopes, we have dismally failed to become a shareholding democracy, argues Patrick Donovan. So why does the Weinberg report think shares can replace welfare provision?



No one wants the cake

IT'S RICHLY ironic that the City establishment should now be trying to resurrect the Tory dream of turning Britain into a share-owning democracy. Yesterday, a Stock Exchange-led initiative headed by some of the City's most influential figures unveiled their long-awaited study on the future of the small investor. Urging radical measures, such as the compulsory teaching of personal finance in schools, the group's chairman, Sir Mark Weinberg, sees the encouragement for ordinary people to build up personal wealth in shares as a means of compensating for the erosion of social-security provisions. It is a controversial agenda in which the Treasury has been involved, and seems certain to prompt political debate over the extent to which individuals should be responsible for their financial security. But what the Weinberg Committee does not explain is why it still believes in the concept of private share-ownership when more than 15 years of give-away privatisations have signally failed to

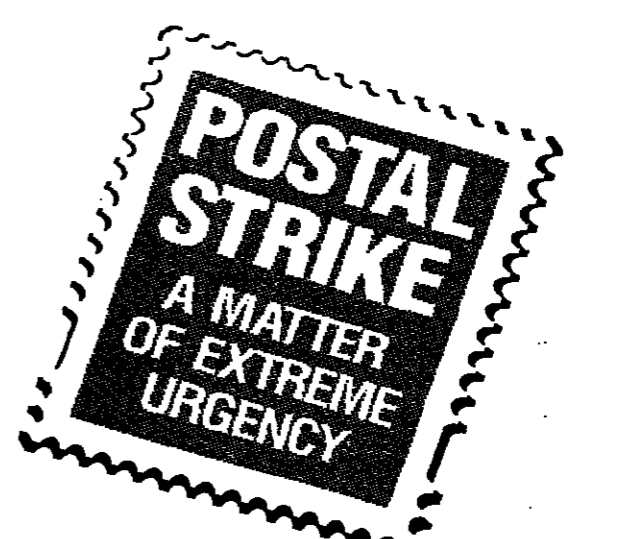
persuade the British public to build up stockmarket holdings. It seems cynical that this initiative is being launched just days after the flop of British Energy — the sale of the country's nuclear plant — which marked the virtual completion of 15 years of privatisation under Conservative governments. Attempts to set up a "shareholding" democracy was one of the central tenets of Thatcherism. Campaigns such as the "Tel Sid" sale of British Gas were designed to promote the Government's political objective of boosting the numbers investing in the stockmarket. But it has never really worked. Far from building up ever-growing stakes in a widening portfolio of different companies, the typical British investor has used privatisation to make a quick buck. More than 50 per cent of the country's individual investors have no more than two sets of shares. And until the British Energy float, the overall number of shareholders was steadily in decline, slipping by a million to well under 10 million over the past four years. Most of these investments are so small that they would be lost in the sea of shares after the flotation of virtually every saleable state-controlled enterprise, the combined value of individual investments now represents just 20 per cent of the value of the London Stock Exchange. The humble Sid has been so crowded out by the growth of professional investors that, for all the tens of billions of pounds of share sell-offs, this figure is eight percentage points lower than the public's overall ownership in equities when the privatisation process began in 1981. Instead of drumming up investor interest with cut-price privatisation shares, yesterday's Weinberg Committee urged the Government to take a fundamental review of the savings market. It points out that anybody without an exposure to the share market loses out on the phenomenal growth which is generated by equities — this week's sharp stockmarket fall notwithstanding. Allowing for inflation, the real value of £100 invested in a building-society account over the last 35 years would be around £95. But put in shares, the real value would have soared to £900. Yet, compared to the US, a tiny minority of individuals in Britain have any meaningful investments in shares. More than 80 per cent of all shareholdings are worth £5,000 or less. Thanks to the increasing casualisation of the workforce, increasing numbers of people are unable to make adequate pension provisions. At the same time, social-security budgets are being increasingly squeezed by the expansion of the retired population. PERSUADING the public to increase their exposure to the stockmarket is one way of helping make up the shortfall in Britain's spending on cradle-to-grave welfare spending, the report suggests. Such is the importance of taking money for one's own financial future that the report is asking the Government to consider making personal finance a core subject on the National Curriculum. Besides the stockmarket, Sir Mark envisages teaching in the use of credit cards, handling debt and using a bank account. This, the committee argues, is the only way of educating youngsters to cope with the steady whittling away of the welfare state. The Weinberg report touches on what is undoubtedly the most important socioeconomic issue confronting Britain. Its findings should shake up the self-serving community which has for so long ruled the City of London. But it fails to address the larger problem of how to support the country's burgeoning underclass: that minority who have just any chance of a secure financial future through unemployment and part-time work. This is a Britain which can hardly pay its utility bills — let alone gamble on the Stock Exchange. Perhaps the Weinberg Committee will succeed where Mrs Thatcher failed and, without access to capital will be left even further behind by those able to leverage up their wealth on the casino of stockmarket investment.

We keep hearing about the need for 'fair play'. But don't confuse this with the meritocracy our politicians call for, says Francine Stock; the market is never fair

Fair in love and war?

THERE'S nothing like a collapsed marriage to bring out a judgmental streak. The split of Charles and Diana has been accompanied by a chorus of comment. Everyone from the Queen to the Daily Mirror (and a million unheeded advisers) has thrown in their offering. To keep the ERH or not, gawping classes or free speech, £15 million too much or too little — what's right, what's fair? Anthony Julius, lawyer to the Princess, has received a bizarre press for doing his job spectacularly well. In one offensive reference, the Daily Telegraph compared his approach to that of Diana Shackleton, Prince Charles's solicitor, who was described as inhabiting "the upper-class world". Julius, said the paper, as a Jewish intellectual and Labour supporter, was "less likely to feel restrained by considerations of fair play". What Julius was doing, in fact, was getting the best legal deal for his client. That is justice as practised. Fair play is something else entirely. Fair play is a screen erected by those in power to baffle and subvert those who don't understand their system. It is useful for neutralising opposition and was traditionally seen as the particular preserve — like an enclosure at Henley — of the aristocracy, although the shenanigans of titled rogues rather gives the lie to that one. Noblesse does not so often oblige as try to gain the advantage along with everyone else in a competitive environment. In the Imran and Ian exhibition match in the High Court this week, Imran Khan has introduced an interesting inversion of the traditional criticism of Britain as a class-ridden society. Britain (or rather British) is criticised for a lack of toffs. Imran claims superior rational faculties for "educated Oxbridge types... The difference in class and upbringing makes a difference." Both men express surprise "if thought we'd got rid of the day of amateurs and professionals. To me it's open for anyone to play. It's not an elite sport." What underlies both these examples is a startling suggestion that achievement on your own merits and a sense of fair play are at odds. Mr Major and Mr Blair have pledged themselves to a greater degree of meritocracy in Britain. Yet the merit system is all about

reward, not compensation. Fat-cat pay rises hardly seem like fair play, but you could argue that they are the genuine fruits of a merit-based society. It's not the reward that is the outrage but the poverty at the other end of the scale — but then, meritocracy is brutal. In Unequal But Fair, a new study of class barriers in Britain from the free-market Institute of Economic Affairs, Professor Peter Saunders claims social mobility is already far more widespread than leftwing sociologists would concede. Britain, he says, is well on the way to becoming a meritocracy. No doubt those who know best how to interpret data will take issue with his reading of the runes. But he makes the point that meritocracy is inherently competitive; there will be losers as well as winners. Those who seek a purely egalitarian society



Today, the British Red Cross will receive no income. We depend on voluntary donations to help save lives in humanitarian disasters. We cannot afford for our funds to stop coming in for even a DAY.

Whether we are helping war victims in Sarajevo, feeding starving people in Rwanda or helping in an emergency at home, we need your support. Please help to keep the British Red Cross in action. Call our credit card hotline now. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated — £25 could help save a life. Thank you. 24 HOUR EMERGENCY DONATION HOTLINE 0990 125 125 Registered Charity No. 220409



10 OBITUARIES

Chas Chandler

A giant, gentle Animal

CHAS Chandler, who has died aged 57, will be remembered as a bassist on the Animals' 1964 House of the Rising Sun...



Big noise... Chandler, right, with Animals (from left) Burdon, Price, Steel and Rowberry

ones that put Slade in the forefront of glam-rock and established them as the most successful British chart band since the Beatles.

death. Chas did not brook interference when he had committed himself to an artist. An idea, a contract. You either stayed on the train to either destination or were asked to jump off.

The Aussies' Test match special

THE stature of the cricket commentator, Alan McGilvray, who has died aged 85, was never more emphasised than during the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's battle with Kerry Packer's Channel Nine.



McGilvray... radio star

City bids for a

Biote Wonder of film snub

Meseline cheered by cleared Bluewater

Chancellor brushes rate cut

Collaborator's life in hiding

THE death in prison of the Vichy official, Paul Touvier, at the age of 81, will revive recriminations over the French Catholic Church's collaboration with the Vichy regime...



Facing justice... Touvier in 1994

had spared Jewish families just before the liberation was never proved, the cardinal emphasised.

Jackdaw



ANY READER seeking new markets for frozen chickens shouldn't pin too many hopes on a striking idea from Down Under.

Little loafers

QUESTION: Why don't more babies work? Excuse me, did I say more? I meant, why don't any babies work?

Royal tuck

THE QUEEN prefers a minimum of fuss and simple food but certain standards have to be adhered to. In addition, Her Majesty is always accompanied by three detectives.

New flavours

RAYMOND Coyle, entrepreneur and MD of Ferris crisps in Ashbourne, County Meath, spots a gap in the BSE-free meat market and sets about thinking.

Competition

CLEAN-cut American sailors in Persul white uniforms walked tall along the streets of Dun Laoghaire.

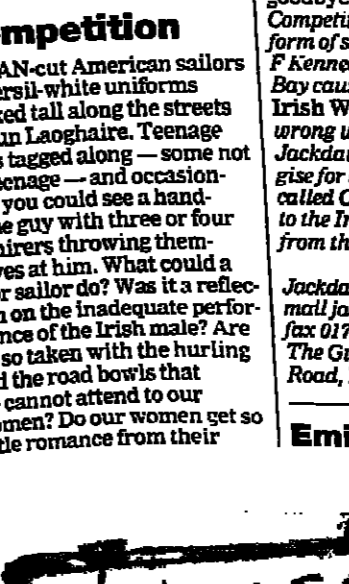
Birthdays

Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 80; Lady Bingley, former chairman, National Association of Mental Health, 71; Edward Bond, playwright, 82; Richard Branson, founder and chairman, Virgin Group, 45; David Cash, disc jockey, 54; George Deggart, cricket historian, 71; Nick Faldo, golfer, 38; John Fraser, chairman, Ciba-Geigy, 68; Senator John Glenn, former US astronaut, 75; Simon Hedder, columnist, 36; David Hemery, athlete, 52; Elizabeth Kew, actor, 66; Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, former director-general of intelligence, 81; Dennis Lillee, cricketer, 47; Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, 78; Michael Medwin, actor, 67; Anthony Miles, publisher, 66; John Naughton, writer, 50; Richard Pasco, actor, 70; Martha Reeves, singer, 55; Tony Raworth, poet, 58; Nathalie Sarraute, novelist, playwright, 96; Hugh Stephenson, Professor of Journalism, City University, 58; Mary

Death Notices

ALLOWED William Oscar, died suddenly 17th July 1996 aged 78. He was a devoted husband and father of three children. Burial at St. Mary's Church, London. Family contact: Mrs. M. Oscar, 11, The Priory, London. Tel: 0171 733 7225.

Emily Sheffield



Bison crisps... The Face

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail: jackdaw@guardian.co.uk. Fax: 0171-713 4966. Jackson, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Biotech rights issue flops

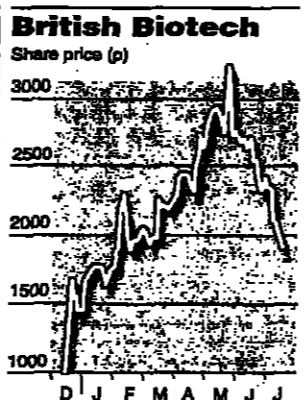
'Wonder drug' firm snubbed

Ian King and Paul Murphy

BITAIN'S fledgling biotechnology sector was left under a cloud last night after the £143 million rights issue for British Biotech, the sector leader, flopped.

worth of unwanted shares. British Biotech shares closed down 67p at 1963p, against the 2050p rights price, after earlier climbing above that crucial level.

receive its £143 million. Kleinwort is due to give details later today on how many investors have exercised their rights.



reilly disappointed that the shares had fallen back during the rights issue. It was "relatively happy" that it would still be receiving its money.

money, and everything here remains on track," she said. The failure of British Biotech's rights issue marks the end of an extraordinary period in which the shares have shot up from just under £5 each a year ago to a peak of £38.35 each at the end of May, before falling back.

Several analysts insisted last night that, despite the failure of the issue, the sector's image would recover. One said: "This issue could not fail because British Biotech is now such a size they would always get their money. It's too big to fail. If it hadn't got the cash it would not have been able to continue its plans in the way that it wanted, and that would have left it in serious trouble."

Notebook

Clarke needs to curb his instinct



Edited by Alex Brummer

ANYONE who listened to Kenneth Clarke on the Today show rubbishing the kids on his own staff and the cranky right-wingers who drew up Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" could not fail to recognise that the Chancellor is one of those rare modern politicians who relies on his wits — not on some text drawn up by his advisers.

Postal error

EVEN as British Energy shareholders count their losses in Monday's shambolic privatisation, unrepentant ministers are preparing a further contentious sell-off.

Heseltine cheered by cleared Bluewater

MICHAEL Heseltine and Lord Lease chairman Stuart Horey (right) yesterday launched construction of the £700 million Bluewater Park regional shopping centre in Kent, writes Roger Coote.



The development, on the opposite side of the QE2 bridge at Dartford from the Lakeside centre at Thurrock, will include 875 shops when it opens in 1999. Expected to attract 30 million visitors a year, it will be one of the last regional malls after a change of government policy on out-of-town shopping.

PHOTOGRAPH: STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Chancellor brushes aside rate cut fears

Richard Thomas and Michael White

CITY analysts were yesterday predicting a further round of disputes between the Treasury and the Bank of England after confirmation that the governor, Eddie George, opposed last month's interest rate cut.

costs and prices at factory gates remaining muted, and the pound strong on the foreign exchanges, a cut to 5.75 per cent would not "cause any significant inflationary risk".

Young won't stand in way of BA link

Keith Harper Transport Editor

THE British Airways alliance with American Airlines will not be blocked by the Government, which will nevertheless protect the interests of smaller competitors like Richard Branson to ensure they are not forced out of business, it emerged yesterday.

The plan was outlined to the Commons transport select committee by Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, yesterday.

referring such behaviour to a tribunal, which should have the power to take swift action. He did not know how long the talks would last, but expected they would be completed before the November presidential election.

negotiations to cover access and capacity restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick. Another government aim was the gradual removal of controls on fares to the US.

Peers back Takeover Panel's fight against EU directive

Paul Murphy

PEERS have come out in support of the City Takeover Panel in its battle against a planned European Union directive on the rules governing bids for companies.

It notes that EC Commission officials, in evidence to the Lords' committee, had conceded that the "City Code" was probably the best system currently within the EU.

CBI refuses to back any party in run-up to the election

Paul Murphy

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday refused to endorse any political party as it launched its manifesto for the next general election, writes Celia Weston.

Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, said his organisation hoped to have an intelligent dialogue with all political parties. "We are willing to discuss policies but not willing to make a party political endorsement," he said.

infrastructure. Mr Turner said the CBI did not want a return to the corporatism of the 1970s. But government "could create the context within which business can be successful".

CBI differences with Labour

- Does not support national minimum wage
- Opposes windfall tax on privatised utilities
- Supports Social Chapter opt out, but finds "encouraging"
- Labour's commitment to resist loss of UK veto through extension of qualified majority voting
- Awaits clarification on "no penal tax rates"

Woolwich purchase price goes up with housing market

Teresa Harrier

THE resurgence in the housing market helped Woolwich Building Society increase its profits by 29 per cent to £188 million during the first half of this year — raising the mortgage lender's price tag for any predator by a minimum £50 million to more than £3 billion.

mortgage discounts but — with its traditional heartland in the South-east — the society had also benefited from the recovery in the housing market, which has seen the number of households with negative equity halve in the second quarter of this year.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9175	France 7.5750	Italy 2.519	Singapore 2.1520
Belgium 15.7	Germany 5.265	Japan 159.0	South Africa 6.0
Canada 2.0825	Greece 358.0	Netherlands 2.2225	Spain 182.25
Cyprus 0.8910	Hong Kong 11.75	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.18
Denmark 2.89	India 56.68	Norway 9.70	Switzerland 1.2225
Finland 4.89	Ireland 4.95	Portugal 232.0	Turkey 124.5005
		Saudi Arabia 5.81	USA 1.5225

Supplied by MidWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Stock Exchange task force aims to encourage wider share ownership and financial responsibility

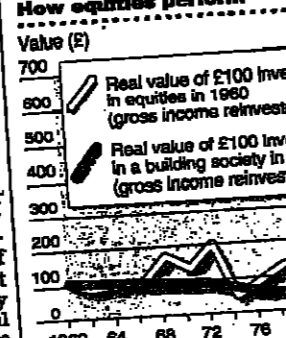
Children 'need money lessons'

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

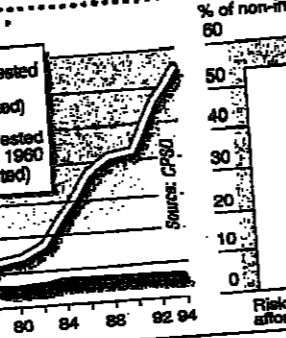
RADICAL proposals to teach primary schoolchildren in the country how to manage their money are to be put to the Government by a Stock Exchange task force set up to change the way of thinking about a share-owning democracy.

The plans, first outlined in the Guardian, have been drawn up after more than six months of study by a committee which includes some of the City's most powerful financiers.

Share ownership



Why people don't buy them



ingly important because of the squeeze on Social Security funding. The report said: "With the numbers in the main saving cohorts of the adult population forecast to reduce, the state, in common with the position in other developed countries, may not be able to provide the level of retirement support and long-term care currently enjoyed."

teaching of personal finance. The task force also advocates: Changes in the tax regime which favours some forms of long-term investments over others. It also wants the simplification of tax affecting quoted investment.

teaching of personal finance. The task force also advocates: Changes in the tax regime which favours some forms of long-term investments over others. It also wants the simplification of tax affecting quoted investment.

Genes make insurers wary

Rachel Baird

THE insurance industry is advising a genetic adviser and is producing a code of conduct in the hope of preventing scandals and fending off critics who claim that it is complacent about the problems posed by genetics.

Tour de France
Riis pu Ullrich

Institutions to fight United's board payout

Roger Cowe

UNITED Utilities, the North-west water and electricity company, faces an unprecedented meeting at next week's annual meeting, when several institutional shareholders will vote against the company's long-term incentive scheme for directors.

with a whole tranche of major shareholders. I can tell you, I am not surrounded by revolt. It has been blown up out of proportion."

But he accepted that other shareholders could formally signify opposition by the proxy voting deadline of next Wednesday.

Following discussion with the Association of British Insurers and major shareholders in May, United Utilities amended the details of its scheme. The multiple of salary which can be earned was cut from 150 per cent to 87 per cent, the level of performance at which bonuses begin was increased, and an earnings per share target was added.

At the suggestion of some shareholders, an annual bonus element was also added. But critical institutions have complained that detailed changes did not address the fundamental issue that it was too easy to earn the bonuses. "They have changed specific things but they have not changed the spirit of the scheme," commented a disgruntled fund manager. "They ignored most of what they said."

One fund manager, who is considering voting against the scheme, said: "Management should be delivering something extra. Under this scheme, they might do very well for not doing a hell of a lot."

Company secretary John Tetlow insisted last night that only one institutional shareholder had indicated it would oppose the scheme, to be presented to shareholders at the annual meeting on Friday of next week.



A night view of the National Trust's 19th century Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury, for which Lord Rothschild, management committee chairman, yesterday collected two awards from the Lighting Industry Federation for outstanding lighting design.

Embattled P&O chairman sticks to his guns

Outlook

Lisa Buckingham

LORD Sterling, the automotive chairman of the P&O shipping and property empire, is a fighter. It was his pugilistic prowess which saw him arrive at P&O in the first place as the man most likely to be able to see off the unwanted takeover advances by Trafalgar House.

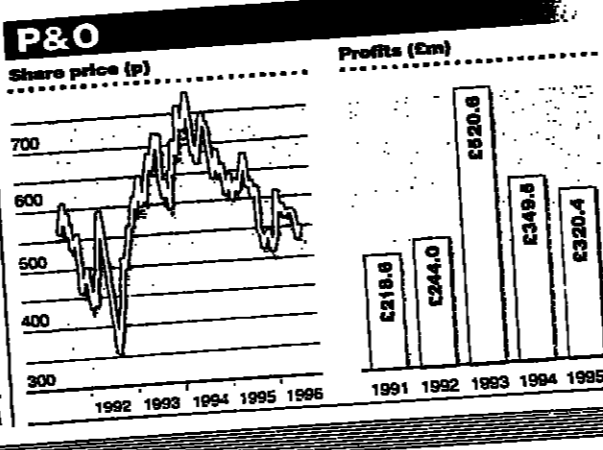
than a number of bosses who have been unseated recently. "Don't forget that (Lord) Sterling is still an Establishment figure. He has hosts of powerful friends and anyone rising up against him would run the risk of being highly unpopular," said one fund manager.

An intimate of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and an adviser to the succession of trade ministers, Lord Sterling certainly has influence. And, until less than two years ago, his claim to be one of the most respected captains of industry would have gone virtually unchallenged.

Lord Sterling can argue that most of the businesses in the 11 divisions which comprise the sprawling group are performing in line with, if not better, than their competitors. But the aggregate of that is a return on operating assets of just 9.6 per cent last year, when British industry averaged 16 per cent.

P&O has decided to cut investment in bulk shipping, sell some property assets, pull out of peripheral businesses and float Boris homes next year. There could be an extra £10 million to £15 million a year on Channel ferry profits, but that could be short-lived. Eurotunnel cannot go away and will have to make a competitive response.

Investors appear to want more. Many remain unconvinced of the commercial logic holding the group's various operations together. Unfashionable conglomerates are unfashionable. They are eager for creative deal-makers and have become increasingly bad tempered about the group's corporate governance standards, notably the recently installed long-term incentive plan for executives.



News in brief

Costain defends plan for reconstruction

COSTAIN, the beleaguered construction group, insisted yesterday that the reconstruction plans being put to shareholders next Monday are the "only realistic proposals" to secure the company's future.

BR chief will stay on

BRRITISH RAIL chairman John Welsby will stay on for a year after a general election to complete the privatisation of the industry or to advise an incoming Labour administration on how the process could be reversed.

Frozen food shares slide

ICELAND, the high street frozen food retailer, yesterday saw almost £80 million wiped from its market value after warning that first half profits would be about 10 per cent lower than this time last year.

Cider's rosy time

EP BULMER, Britain's biggest cider maker, said yesterday that it expects to see continuing growth in the market over the next year.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

THAT error in Prince Charles's divorce papers was not quite the legal irrelevance claimed. In stating that the marriage broke down irretrievably in November 1993, as opposed to the true date of November 1992, Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitors, may have exposed Chazza to the attentions of the Inland Revenue. Under the regs, the married couple's allowance can be claimed only for as long as the couple live as husband and wife, a state the Revenue considers terminates at the point of breakdown.

BROTHER Yank's hatred of the Cubans — as exemplified by this week's attempts to bully other countries into joining the anti-Castro crusade — is matched only by his foaming loathing of that island's most famous product, tobacco. No doubt the Clintonists imagined that, in Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of fag-machine BAT and trader with the hated Fidel, they had found the perfect target for their twin obsessions. Not so. The joke inside BAT is that Sir Patrick, whose love of the weed rivals that of FC himself, is delighted at the prohibition on his entering the US: it provides the perfect excuse not to appear before one of Washington's anti-smoking kangaroo courts.

SOCIAL exclusion is a terrible thing, as a report on joblessness from the hyper-worshipful Employment Policy Institute this week made plain. Embarrassing, then, that the authors of the study — Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth from the LSE — were excluded from the document launch at the Reform Club. Until, that is, the club



JUST five photographs of the Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalstre, grace the 12 pages of the July issue of City View, the Corporation's bulletin for Square Mile residents. By the standards of previous incumbents, this is positively modest. The View's editor has done his best to compensate for the low picture count: right there on the front page is a puff for page three's top item: "Knight-hood for Lord Mayor."

THE spec has gone out for the multi-million pound refurbishment of Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel, but the buy-British message appears not to have penetrated. A product from America's Lutron company has been selected for the light-dimming system in the chapel, an exquisite building containing the seats for the Knights of the Garter. At least three British companies make similar or compatible equipment. With all due respect, this is not the way for the Royals to begin the post-divorce fight-back.

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By Mid 1990

Tour de France

Riis punishment points Ullrich to podium

William Fotheringham in Pamplona

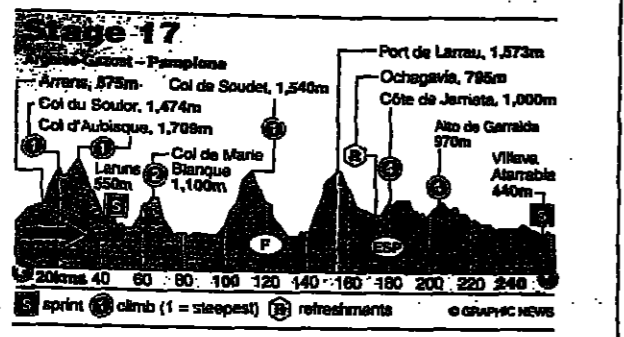
NOTHING symbolised the transfer of power in this Tour de France better than the moment yesterday afternoon when Indurain was invited on to the podium here, three miles from his home. The five-times Tour winner had just finished 8 1/2 minutes behind the yellow jersey Bjarne Riis, who was in such a position of strength that he was able to gift the stage win to Switzerland's Laurent Dufaux.

It was Indurain's first appearance on the podium this year, not since 1988 has he been neither a stage winner nor maillot jaune. There was a wistful look in his eyes as he climbed to the top step, then the familiar vague smile returned. Riis — who a few minutes earlier had told Big Mig's home crowd, "I have won, but you must remember Indurain remains a great champion" — joined him. To rub it in, the Dane presented Indurain with the bouquet he had been given with the yellow jersey. Indurain threw it at the crowd as if he could not get rid of it fast enough. That Indurain could keep a smile on his face in front of his most passionate fans after two of the worst days of his illustrious career proved the

truth of all the tributes that have ever been paid to his character. The headline on the front of Spain's national sports newspaper Marca yesterday was correct: "Indurain knows how to lose like a champion." He was not the only big loser at the end of a stage as long as a one-day World Cup race run off half an hour faster than the fastest schedule, at an average speed of 20mph over four Pyrenean passes in heat of 30C. With the defending Tour champion in the second group were the world champion Abraham Olano and Switzerland's Tony Rominger, second and third overall yesterday morning, who slipped to ninth and 10th. Russia's Evgeny Berzin, who had donned the yellow jersey with such arrogance in the Alps, finished over half an hour back. Britain's Chris Boardman survived a crash to finish with the "bus" of sprinters, 46 minutes back. After his crushing win at Lourdes, Riis might have been expected merely to observe his opponents. But Indurain, Rominger and Olano signed their own death-warrants when they slipped back on the third major pass of the day, the Col du Soudet, under

pressure from Richard Virenque's Festina team, who had their sights on moving their little climber — already a certain winner of the King of the Mountains prize — up the overall rankings. Once Indurain, Olano and Rominger had slipped further behind on the monstrously steep Port de Larraz, which climbed eight miles to the Spanish border through beech woods and across baking scree slopes, Riis changed his plan. Along with him in the lead group of eight was his teammate Jan Ullrich, a 22-year-old prodigy from Rostock, who had started the day fourth overall. Riis, for many years a domestique himself, realised that if he kept the second group at bay Ullrich would move into second place. His punishing stunts at the front of the lead group had the rest struggling to keep up, and broke Rominger and the rest. At the finish he was still the strongest, and pushed away with incident ease in the streets of Pamplona. Only Dufaux held his wheel. Today's stage: Pamplona to Hendaye, 97 miles.

William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly



Big Mig soaks up home brew as fans lay out welcome mat

Alasdair Fotheringham

THE welcome-home party was ready but the guest of honour arrived late. Miguel Indurain went through his home town eight minutes behind the race leader Bjarne Riis as Big Mig was milking the applause from his fans in Villava, three miles ahead at the stage finish. Riis was receiving a similar welcome in Pamplona. Not that many of the

3,000-plus supporters lining the route through Villava appreciated the irony. "We've been waiting too long for this day now for it to matter that much," said the vice-president of the local Indurain fan club. "Miguel is still Miguel and it's important to be with him in the bad moments, which is when he needs us. As for the good moments, everybody's there for them." The fan club took pride of

place in a large stand next to the Indurain family farmhouse. Pacharan showed — a heady mix of wine and beer — local folk-songs were sung and a brass band played. As Riis, Virenque and company dashed for the intermediate sprint, the enthusiastic musicians pumped out the old war-cry of Indurain, Indurain, Indurain, taken up instantly by the crowd. Indurain's parents, wife and seven-month-old son were ensconced on the farmhouse balcony overlooking the road, and as he flashed by there was a

waving of a minute paw from underneath a Banesto sun-hat, and the old familiar grin returned — briefly — to the face of the five-times champion. This is probably all that Indurain will see of his son for now. "We aren't allowed to leave the team hotel," pointed out Prudencio, Miguel's younger brother who also rides for Banesto, "but in any case we'll be back on Monday." It was their father, Miguel senior, who put it in context. "If they've organised all this rumpus for him, he must have done something to deserve it."



Road to nowhere... Indurain, who 'knows how to lose like a champion', struggles up the Pyrenean passes into Spain

Racing

Swinburn looks set for August comeback

Graham Rock

WALTER SWINBURN will learn next Wednesday when he will be able to return to race riding. The jockey has been asked to attend a meeting of the Jockey Club Licensing Committee at Portman Square. A statement issued yesterday by the Club said: "The re-issuing of his riding licence and the implications of his return to race riding" would be discussed. Liffey river, an untrained, blinkered horse, was Swinburn's mundane ride at Sha Tin, Hong Kong, on February 11. His inexperienced mount veered right leaving the stalls, galloped the width of the track and crashed into the rails, shooting Swinburn to the ground. He hit the metal rails' support and suffered extensive injuries, including a fractured collar bone, fractured ribs, and extensive bruising to the brain and upper body. Holes were drilled into his skull to relieve pressure. His lung began to fill with blood while he was being taken to a hospital adjacent to the racery, and he was later told that if he had arrived 15 minutes later, he would probably not have survived.

Guidelines from neurologists suggest that six months is the minimum recommended safe recovery period; among official organisations to accept that restriction is the DVLC, which requires that drivers who have suffered brain damage wait six months before being reissued with a licence. If the Jockey Club officials endorse that view, Swinburn could return at Deauville or Leopardstown on August 11, nine days before the York Ebor meeting. Swinburn was resting yesterday at the family's Great Genesis Stud on the outskirts of Newmarket and refused to take telephone calls. "Walter is fine and well in himself," said his agent, Graham Rock. "He is in good form and looking forward to ride at the earliest opportunity." If he does return on August 11, Swinburn will be anxious to renew his association with Halling in York's Juddmonte International on August 20. He rode the Godolphin colt to win both the Coral-Eclipse and the big race at York last season. Earlier this month he had to watch as John Reid partnered Halling to a repeat victory in the Eclipse at York.

The Jockey Club's medical officer, Dr Michael Turner, and a specialist neurologist, Dr Peter Hamlyn, have both submitted reports to the Licensing Committee, and Swinburn has received copies. The reports are believed to confirm that Swinburn has made a good recovery from his accident. The "implications" noted in the statement refer to the possible effects of a similar accident: a rider falling onto the head following brain damage would be less likely to make a full recovery than one who had not previously experienced a similar accident. Swinburn looks sure to miss the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on Saturday week. Yesterday Maureen Haggas confirmed that Pat Eddy had been booked to ride the Danish champion, Shaamit, in that event. Michael Hills partnered Shaamit to victory at Epsom, but opted for Pentire in the Eclipse and partners that horse again in the Diamond Stakes. Eddy was asked to ride Shaamit in the Eclipse, but the horse was withdrawn a few days beforehand, having failed to recover in time from the foot injury which had earlier prevented him from running in the Irish Derby.

Bath with form

- 2.00 Flight Master 3.00 Tuffham 4.00 Tuffham Pearl 5.00 Tuffham 6.00 Tuffham Walk

Worcester N.H. tonight

- 8.00 North Cross 9.00 North Cross 10.00 North Cross 11.00 North Cross

Leicester

- 2.15 Palomares (pb) 3.45 N. Phlego 4.15 WESTBROTHER (imp) 5.15 Westbridge Lad

Redcar tonight

- 6.45 Penny Park 7.15 Penny Park 7.45 Penny Park

Draws Low number last in brackets. Quinella, Double, Trio Figures in brackets after horse's name denote places where latest ending

Draws Low number last in brackets. Quinella, Double, Trio Figures in brackets after horse's name denote places where latest ending

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 2.00 with horses like Flight Master, Tuffham, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 8.00 with horses like North Cross, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 2.15 with horses like Palomares, N. Phlego, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 6.45 with horses like Penny Park, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 2.30 with horses like James A. Cowan, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 6.30 with horses like Bobby Caplan, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 2.45 with horses like Gary Hambleton, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 8.00 with horses like Worcester County, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 8.45 with horses like 60 Entries, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 4.30 with horses like Western Union, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 9.00 with horses like Dunham County, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 4.30 with horses like Results, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and race details. Includes race 9.15 with horses like Premier, etc.

Advertisement for 'is guns' featuring a large image of a handgun.

Advertisement for '000 call access' featuring a large image of a telephone handset.

Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring a large image of a horse and jockey.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer Blackburn go into red with bid for Cantona

SOMEONE at Blackburn would appear to have a mischievous streak. That was how it must have seemed yesterday afternoon at Manchester United when out of the blue and white a £4 million bid for Eric Cantona came through one of Old Trafford's fax machines. After initial astonishment United recovered sufficiently to turn Rovers down flat. "There is no way we are going to sell Cantona," said United's assistant secretary Ken Ramsden. "The offer has been rejected out of hand. Eric will not be going to Blackburn Rovers or anywhere else."

OLYMPIC GAMES



Pressing engagement... Jonathan Edwards is in the hot seat as he faces a British inquisition in Tallahassee

Edwards happy to take a local pew

Peter Nichols finds Britain's best prospect for a track and field gold medal in his element in Bible-belt Tallahassee. F JONATHAN EDWARDS isn't happy in Tallahassee, it does not augur well for the rest of the British team. This is the Bible belt of America, with a church (or two) on every corner, and the very religious Edwards is spoilt for choice. "Yes, I'm very happy here, I have got involved with a good church and have good friends here," said the triple jumper. Edwards remains the one strong favourite for gold in the British track and field team, but that clearly does not make the run-in any easier. He slipped off the rails early in the season, but acknowledges that, though the speed is there, the timing still is not. "The meetings this season have lacked a bit of spark because everyone has been waiting for the Olympics," said Edwards, who is looking forward to the atmosphere of the Games to lift him to the heights of a year ago, though he acknowledges that it may be as his nature, Edwards is generous about his opponents. "Quessada (Cuba) is very, very strong; Conley (USA) has been there and done it a thousand times; Harrison (USA) functions off emotional energy. He (Harrison) has hardly had a jump in anger this year, so who knows what he can do."

Doctor ready to quit over drug row

BRITAIN'S athletics team doctor Malcolm Brown may resign from the British Olympic Association medical committee if Michael Turner, the man at the centre of Tuesday night's Panorama programme, continues to sit on it. Brown's veiled threat came as Britain's former Olympic champion Chris Brasher announced that he was disillusioned with drugs scandals that he had decided to miss the Games for the first time in 40 years. His decision fuelled the debate sparked by the BBC documentary, Yesterday the British Athletic Federation expressed further anger over Turner, who claimed that the headquarters of all competitors in Atlanta have taken drugs. He also said that the new drug-testing equipment would be ineffective. That claim was disputed by the IOC's doping commission, which challenged Turner to amplify his controversial remarks. Meanwhile, another athlete has been added to the roll of drug dishonour. Hard on the heels of the positive tests for the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua, jumper weightlifter Yuri Myshkovets was sent home from his training camp and banned from the Olympics. "After being banned several times before we do not trust anyone, even ourselves. We are very tough now and have decided to test everyone," said Russia's coach Armen Nalbandyan. Weightlifting is the Olympic sport most susceptible to doping scandals, and medical officials have pledged to field drugs "dream team" in Atlanta. Ironically, news of the ban on Myshkovets came shortly after Tamas Ajan, head of the sport's governing body, said weightlifting had cleaned up its act and was now a model for other sports to follow. Ajan has dropped two members of his judo team and one of its weightlifters after they tested positive. Myshkovets' compatriot Alexei Petrov won an Olympic reprieve after officials accepted his protest that he was the victim of a jilted fiancée who spiked his protein food with steroids. Petrov, the 1995 triple world champion in the mid-heavyweight class, faced a life ban after failing a dope test. But after his former fiancée confessed what she had done, officials who told him he had promised he would become engaged to and then marry, said Ajan. "When he told her he had changed his mind, she decided to do as much moral damage to him as possible."

Uefa Cup, preliminary round, first leg Newtown 1, Skonto Riga 4

Barton slips up as Skonto leave egg on Welsh faces

NEWTOWN were outclassed by the Latvian champions Skonto Riga in Wales last night, as they slipped to a comprehensive 4-1 defeat by their goalkeeping Michael Barton. The side showed they make up the nucleus of their national side. Babichev was the first to test Barton in the fifth minute as he immediately began to run the midfield. Yeliseyev then brought Barton into action again before Finlayson was followed by another save. Newtown in closing them down and then breaking quickly. The Welsh side's first corner on the half-hour was followed by a header from Williams before Skolters turned sharply on the edge of the box and hit a post. Then eight minutes before half time, late debut Barton was shattered by a goal from a shrewdly placed header from everything thrown at him, he let a weak shot from Astafeyev slide under his body and tricked over the half-time lead. Skonto doubled their lead 20 minutes from time. Astafeyev superbly controlled a through ball as he past Barton from eight yards. More misery followed for Newtown with two goals from the substitute Lohauyov within four minutes - the first with his first touch of the game - but in injury time, Brown restored a little hope to the pride by sliding an overhead kick at a Reynders head kick at the top post. Skonto's goalscorers: Skolters, Zamilnisky, Shelyshov, Skolters, Ivanov, Vainov, Babichev, Skolters, Pirov, Vainov. Referee: B. Arcoy (Spain).

The triple jumper feared by Jonathan Edwards wins appeal to IAAF for a place in the US team

Duncan Mackay in Atlanta. KENNY HARRISON, who has been named as Britain's greatest threat for the Olympic triple jump gold medal, has been given an 11th-hour reprieve to compete in the Games by the International Amateur Athletic Federation after the United States left him out of their team. Harrison won the US Olympic trials here last month with 16.01 metres, the best in the world this year. But it was wind-assisted, and such jumps are not eligible as qualifying marks for major championships, so it was ruled that the American had not reached the IAAF standard of 16.68m since the period for posting it began in January 1995. Harrison claimed he had several jumps further than that distance, but US officials told him indoor performances did not count. The IAAF, however, has ruled in his favour even though he failed to achieve the necessary distance by the necessary deadline. It has accepted a mark of 17.05m, jumped at altitude in Reno in February 1995. Altitude is particularly helpful to sprinters and jumpers because the thinner air offers less resistance. Harrison's opening attempt at the trials, he passed on his other five jumps, confident that he had previously met the Olympic standard. "I don't think they even went through the effort of checking," he said last night of the USA Track and Field officials who told him he had not qualified. Harrison was the 1991 world champion and, with a personal best of 17.32m, is the set six years ago, is the third-longest triple jumper of all time behind Edward's world record of 18.25m.

Webster returns to union fold with Bath

John Huxley. RICHARD WEBSTER, the former Wales and Lions rugby union flanker, yesterday agreed to a return to the 15-man code with a move to Bath. The English league champion and cup holders played Salford Reds about 840,000 for the services of a player who left Swansea in 1993 for Salford in September. With the movement of players to the growing area of another Courage league club, Orrell, had been interested in signing the forward, who has played internationally for Wales at league and union. Webster, unlike the Wigan players Paul, who are joining Bath on short-term winter contracts, has a three-year full-time contract and it is likely he has played his last game for Salford. The League Two club Richmond, who have already signed Scott Quinnell from Wigan, are interested in Webster's former Swansea Wales team-mate Scott Gibbs. The St Helens centre, Richard, are one of several union clubs who have also looked at the Halifax Blue Sox centre Graeme Hallas. Salford's 19-year-old Wales international scrum-half Ian Watson has joined Super League's bottom-of-the-table club Workington Town. The League's transfer tribunal last night ruled that Leeds, in the Super League, must pay First Division Huddersfield up to £200,000 for the 19-year-old utility back Marcus St Hillary. Huddersfield had sought £125,000 for the player. First Division Batley were told to pay their rivals Featherstone Rovers £110,000 plus VAT for the utility back Carl Gibson. Batley have to find £100,000 immediately and a further £4,000 by November 1.

Atlanta riders may pull out

ORGANISERS of the Olympic three-day event, alarmed by Atlanta's heat and humidity, will stop the event if conditions become too severe. "If it comes to it we will," said Hugh Thomas, an Englishman charged with overseeing the horse trials as technical delegate of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI). Thomas was supported by Professor Leo Jeffcott, the Cambridge vet responsible for the well-being of the Olympic three-day event. His research team has studied the local conditions and as a result of his recommendations the cross-country phase will be reduced by 23 per cent and will take place early in the day - from 6.45 to 10.00 on the day of the individual competition and until 11.30am for the team event. Parts of the course have been landscaped in wooded shade, and in open areas special mesh netting will protect the horses. There will be eight examinations during the competition by an international panel of 80 vets.

Cricket News and Scores 0891 22 88+ Counties update Derbyshire 31 Middlesex 40 Durham 32 Nottingham 42 Essex 33 Northampton 43 Glamorgan 34 Somerset 44 Gloucestershire 35 Surrey 45 Hampshire 36 Sussex 46 Kent 37 Worcestershire 47 Lancashire 38 Warwickshire 48 Leicestershire 39 Yorkshire 49 Complete county scores 0891 22 88 30

Results Soccer Uefa Cup: Newtown 1, Skonto Riga 4. Uefa Cup: Skonto Riga 4, Newtown 1. Uefa Cup: Skonto Riga 4, Newtown 1. Uefa Cup: Skonto Riga 4, Newtown 1.

Baseball NATIONAL LEAGUE Atlanta 3, Montreal 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE Atlanta 3, Montreal 1. NATIONAL LEAGUE Atlanta 3, Montreal 1.

Golf British Open Championship Score Updates 0891 567 967 Sport

Brittle Links lead to... Weakened Wa... The best you'll see

Rugby Union

Brittle has role in new TV talks

Robert Armstrong and Ian Halliday... WICKENHAM made a dramatic U-turn yesterday in an attempt to save England's place in the Five Nations Championship...

Brittle, who was left out of the original TV talks, will join forces with the new RFU president John Richardson in the new discussions...

just the senior clubs that would lose out but the junior clubs as well... Sky has issued a broad hint to Epruc that it may terminate its involvement in British and Irish rugby altogether...

"I have had countless faxes, letters and telephone calls in regard to the selling-off of the TV rights, and people have been dismayed... Brittle admitted the Sky contract was "legally binding" but added: "We would like to see Sky review their position"...

seven negotiators to stand down... Until last week the RFU negotiating team comprised the secretary Tony Hallett, the former president Bill Bishop, vice-president Peter Brook, the treasurer David Robinson and his successor Colin Harbridge...

Brittle... new role... Hallett... rebuff... make a fresh start with two other negotiators. It is unlikely there will be a role for Hallett next week...



Golf

Links in the chain lead to Faldo

THE form horse is undoubtedly Nick Faldo. The current US Masters champion has already won the Open Championship three times and is a strong favourite to make it four when the 125th edition of the event begins at Royal Lytham St Annes today...

OPEN TEE-OFF TIMES

- (Today and tomorrow: GB/IR unless stated; *amateur; capitals denote star groups) 0700 and 1140 M Macdonald (GB), R Wilton 0711 and 1157 P Lawrie, J Rivera (Sp), B Webb 0728 and 1208 D GILFORD, I BAKER-FINCH (Aus), P STEWART (US) 0738 and 1218 R FALDO, R ALLENBY (Aus), F ZISLER (US) 0748 and 1228 R McParlane, B Hughes (Aus), B Mayfair (US) 0758 and 1238 F COUPLIS (US), M McCUMBER (US), P HARRINGTON 0808 and 1248 L WESTWOOD, S JONES (US), W RILEY (Aus) 0817 and 1258 M James, P O'Malley (Aus), T Taites (US) 0828 and 1308 J Parmer (Sw), B Charles (NZ), P Jackson (US) 0838 and 1318 S LANGER (Ger), T KITE (US), Y KANEKO (Japan) 0848 and 1328 H TANAKA (Japan), S BALLESTEROS (Sp), J MAGGERT (US) 0857 and 1338 B FAXON (US), D FROST (SA), C MCKEITHEN (US) 0912 and 1353 D Fehery, J Heggeman (Sw), DA Weir (US) 0928 and 1408 J Haas (US), P Senior (Aus), H Clark 1008 and 1428 M O'Meara (US), T Lehman (US), A Forsbrand (Sw) 1018 and 1438 L ROBERTS (US), G TURNER (NZ), S TORRANCE 1028 and 1448 G NORMAN (Aus), S STRICKER (US), J PAYNE 1007 and 1483 B Etra (US), W Westner (SA), P Eales 1018 and 1504 M A Jirancic (Sp), T Johnson (Zim), J Shuman (US) 1028 and 1518 P Broochurst, D Borrego (Sp), D Love III 1040 and 1538 R Drummond, S Field, M Welch 1051 and 1547 R Chapman, R Lee, M Marshall (Japan) 1108 and 1568 I Steel, F Tarnaud (Fr), B McCall 1118 and 1588 D Smyth, A Lehoucq (Fr), A Mednick (Sw) 1128 and 1610 G Emerson, S Allan (Aus), M Utton 1138 and 1627 S Darcy, S Murphy (US), S Bowerman 1148 and 1640 R Bostel, T Price (Aus), G Lane (Sp) 1157 and 1651 D Duval (US), W Austin (US), B Lane 1208 and 1672 S Bernard (US), B Ogilvie (Aus), P McGilver 1218 and 1683 S Simpson (US), S Elkington (Aus), G Siga 1230 and 1744 E ROMERO (Arg), L JANZEN (US), C ROCCA (It) 1241 and 1758 W Bladon, A Oldham, B Barnes 1258 and 1808 J DALY (US), P MICKELSON (US), S HIGASHI (Japan) 1308 and 1817 M Jordan (Sw), B Tway (US), S Ames (Tr) 1318 and 1828 M DALCAVECCIA (US), C STRANGE (US), P J JOHANSSON (Sw) 1328 and 1838 S BRAND (US), M PIERCE (US), P MICKELSON (US) 1338 and 1848 Y Singh (FIJ), M Parry (Fr), J Furey (US) 1347 and 1857 Y Herron (US), M McNulty (Zim), A Cella (Ger) 1358 and 1908 A Coller, F Nettle (NZ), M Brooks (US) 1408 and 1928 A MEDBLOW (Sw), E ELI SR (SA), C STADLER (US) 1428 and 1948 C PAPRY (Aus), S LYLE, P AZINGER (US) 1438 and 1958 D Chara, R Goosen (SA), T Woods (US) 1448 and 1968 R CRIBBEN (US), S Thring (Ger), P WALTON 1458 and 1978 J Hobson, S Garcia (Sp), T Hamilton (US) 1504 and 1918 G PLAYER (SA), C PAVIN (US), J WOODNAM 1518 and 1928 P Mitchell, M Campbell (NZ), R Mediate (US) 1528 and 1940 P Mason, S Poir (Sw), S Bosterman 1537 and 1951 S Grappasorel (It), C Sarason (Sp), R Todd (Can) 1548 and 1962 G Law, D A Russell, M Floridi (It) 1558 and 1972 J Coenen (Bel), S Thring (Ger), X Fukunaga (Japan) 1610 and 1984 D J Russell, D Hordley, G Brown 1621 and 1998 K Eriksson (Sw), M Heilberg (Sw), J Townsend (US)

came into the "unknown" category when he won at Oakland Hills in June, he had been a good player before he was forced to take three years off because of injury. He is a modest man in Jones, and at the Golf Writers' annual dinner he volunteered a few words. "Anyone on any tour," he said, "can win at any time. I proved that point, believe me."

One man who knows that he is not going to win this week is the Amateur champion Warren Bladon. If in May, you had told him he would be playing in the Open and the US Masters, as of right, he would have dismissed you as a fool. But that is what victory at Turnberry brought him.

Last man on the course yesterday, rounding off his preparations, was Faldo. On the sheet listing the times and pairings for the practice rounds, his name appeared in splendid isolation at the bottom. Not for him the conviviality of a friendly fourball; just intense concentration on the job in hand and the hope, later, that in four days' time the last shall be first.

Jack Nicklaus may have withdrawn from the Open, according to the 1993 champion Bob Charles. The 66-year-old Nicklaus was late in joining the New Zealanders for a practice round because he needed treatment to his back. "He told me he may have to pull out," said Charles.



Signs of the times... Price runs the gamut of autograph hunters during his practice round at Lytham yesterday

Nothing bitter in Price's round

Mike Selvey on the 1994 Open winner who ran into a Spanish juggernaut the last time the championship came to Lytham

IT IS one of the enduring memories of recent Open Championships. Nick Price, at the back of Turnberry's 17th green in 1994, is hunched over a 60ft putt knowing that, if he holes it, it could win him the title for the first time.

The putt ran, ran some more, twisted to the right and, to a gigantic roar, fell into the hole. Price, unable to contain his emotion, pranced across the green and fell upon his knees. He was wearing a white sweater and trousers and white shirt, and the force with which...

After the magical chip from beside the last green had virtually sealed Severiano Ballesteros's victory, and Price had raced his do-or-die effort past and inevitably missed the one back, the Spaniard tapped in for his 65 and turned to his beaten opponent, placed his hand on his shoulder and looked him squarely in the eye. "Nick," he said, "you keep playing like that and you will win."

"Coming from him, a major champion," Price said yesterday, "that meant a lot. It made my headship stronger." He said of that round: "It was the 16th that was the key to it all. I think I'd out-driven him by a dozen yards, so he played first to the green. You can tell by the sound whether an iron has been truly struck, and as he nipped his nine-iron off the turf it sounded perfect. It was good and he nearly holed it."

landing areas as if corseted, and more penal rough than last time. But where, he wonders, is the wind? "We need it. Without the wind, links courses are defenceless and scoring here could be low. I'd like to see it blow like in '88."

But if he does go against the odds and win, it will not be with Squeaky carrying his bag. A couple of months ago the caddy phoned to say that he had left Llanes. "It took the wind out of my sails," Price admitted. "In a hundred years I never thought he was ill, and I didn't feel like playing. But, although he has a tough time ahead, I think he's going to be okay and we'll support him all we can. I'll be trying to win this for him as much as anyone."

price runs the gamut of autograph hunters during his practice round at Lytham yesterday

Cricket

Weakened Warwickshire rally after Anwar-inspired Pakistanis threaten to run riot

PAKISTAN, who appeared to be enjoying a leisurely net against a depleted Warwickshire attack, met unexpected obstacles on a curious opening day of this Today Challenge Test match...

Saeed Anwar continued his bulging of understrength county attacks with his third century of the tour, a run-ball 181 which included 100 before lunch.

Pakistan gorged on some dreadful bowling as they rattled up 222 in the first 42 overs. They then lost their last eight wickets for 71 and were dismissed for 297.

The watching England coach David Lloyd had plenty to fill his notebook, not least how to contain Anwar. The wristy left-hander averaged 40 in his first 12 Tests but his career was disrupted by a form of typhoid, which laid him low for six months. Now restored to full health, he has made up for lost time with 588 runs in six first-class innings on the tour.

third wicket, made a patient half-century before he edged a shorter from the lively Darren Allread, a 21-year-old left-arm quick bowler playing only his second senior game.

The way Warwickshire, who included five uncapped players, exposed the Pakistanis' tail will have encouraged Lloyd as he prepares for next week's first Test.

PAKISTAN XI: First batsmen: Saeed Anwar c Barry b Brown 131; Ijaz Ahmed b b Brown 10; Inzamam-ul-Haq c Brown 10; Salim Malik bow b Brown 20; Asif Mujtaba c Corder b Welch 20; Waqar Younis b Giles 18; Anwar-ul-Haq b Giles 14; Mohammad Afram not out 0

Complex block containing betting information, odds, and a Ladbrokes advertisement with the phone number 0800 524 524.

Advertisement for a movie with the text: "The best action movie you'll see all year. SEE PAGE 11 IN G2"

Sports Guardian

Lytham expects birdie barrage

David Davies on why scores will be lower than the Open temperature

ROYAL Lytham St Anne's, venue for this week's Open Championship, may be brought to its knees this weekend, all for the want of some wind. The best players in the world are unanimous that if the weather forecast proves correct there could be a birdie barrage resulting in some of the lowest scores seen in a major.

The Met Office says an area of high pressure centred over the United Kingdom has brought hot sun and clear skies and, most important, the lightest of breezes. The players say the cut could thus be well under par and the field bunched together as never before in a welter of sub-par scores.

Opinions vary only on the degree of carnage, some players think the winning score will be as low as 18 under, others go along with Nick Faldo who ventured 14 under as a likely mark.

Even the Royal and Ancient admits it is worried. Michael Bonallack, the secretary, said: "I am fearful of what is around the corner. The weather is incredible really. Nick Price has just been saying he would like a little more breeze, but sadly we don't have any control over that."

The Met Office is indicating that today's early starters, who include David Gifford and Payne Stewart (7.22am), and Robert Allenby and Fuzzy Zoeller (7.33), Fred Couples (7.55), Steve Jones, and US Open champion (8.06) and Severiano Ballesteros (8.50) will have to cope with limp winds, next to nothing in golf. Lee Janzen, a former US Open champion, said yesterday: "You get more breeze opening a car door. The wind may get up later in the day, but only to 10-12mph."

Yesterday the flags over the huge main stand by the side of the 18th green lay limp against the flagpole, and on

the practice ground there was a telling indication of what the players expect. The club with which most were working hardest was the long iron, a one, two or three, because they expect to use a lot of irons off the tees; the course is hard and bouncy and driver shots could run off into the rough.

Paul Azinger, a former US PGA champion, was disappointed by the lack of even a breeze yesterday and said: "Wind needs to be a big part of the hazard of playing a links course. Lytham is playing short and it is crucial for it to have a wind. Most courses have four defences, wind, water, sand and rough, and if you take away the first two the course is close to defenceless."

Tom Watson, who has had to go home with a shoulder injury to play this week, once said that St Andrews without a wind was "as defenceless as a naked lady and as much challenge as a promiscuous one". He would have recognised much of the St Andrews about which he spoke in Lytham this week.

Certainly Janzen feels that if there is no wind there will be "a ton of guys up there with low scores". And if that is the case "someone, on Sunday, could come out and shoot nothing and win from miles back". The American got up in two at the three long holes yesterday, hitting a drive and two-iron to the 6th, a drive and three-wood to the 7th, and a drive and three-iron into the 11th.

David Feherty made the point that the best players in the world are here — the Sony rankings say this is the strongest field of the year — and unless the speed of the greens is improved "there will be carnage". He estimates they are running at about 8ft — slow for a professional — on the Stimpmeter, a device for measuring the speed of a green. "Unless they get them faster," he said, "everyone will hole

everything." Feherty was due to play his practice round with Sam Torrance, Wayne Riley and Richard Boxall, a fourball that could close any bar in the country.

Paul Broadhurst, capable of

bursts of low scoring and joint holder of the record for one round with a 63 at St Andrews, recognised the problem but said, with a touch of cynicism: "They'll put the pins in the bunkers to protect

the course." Mark James agreed, but still predicted a winning score of 12-14 under par which, as Lytham has a par of 71, is remarkably low. Sandy Lyle thought there could be the best scoring

overall, seen at an Open for a long time. "There will be a lot of depth to the scoring too," said the man who first played at Lytham in 1976 as a 17-year-old. He was also at Jacklin's Open in 1969 and when the new champion threw his winning ball into the stands it fell a mere 18 inches from Lyle's outstretched hands.



Over the top... Greg Norman and Ernie Els unravel the mysteries of the 6th at Lytham yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Hustlers, high humidity and a lot of bottle



Frank Keating

IT STANDS as tall as Big Ben, as unmissable a landmark as the dome of St Peter's in Rome. It is a gigantic Coca-Cola bottle, a garish, wing-lit concrete edifice that jags high into the Atlanta sky. Welcome to the Centennial Olympic Games.

Oh to be in Athens now that the centenary is here. The Greek capital, re-founders of the faith in 1896, should have done the honours, of course, but the twin gigantism of Coca-Cola and the Olympic movement jockeyed them off.

"Of course we are still bitter about not being in Athens for the centenary," said one of the Greek athletes, "but money and fizzy drinks are what counts in sport these days."

Atlanta was cloudy yesterday, but the humidity battered the down unremittingly on the sweltering city as the traffic jams across its myriad spaghetti junctions danced in a smoggy, mirage-like haze.

A dozen or so modern skyscrapers and that Coca-Cola phallus dominate the skyline, but on closer inspection the heart of downtown Atlanta is a nondescript panoply of parking lots, broken-down buildings and vacant scrubland. It has the look of 1950s London before the blitz had been cleared up, but with two days to go Atlanta reflects little of London's post-war high spirits. There is no carnival atmosphere, no buzz, none of the feeling we experienced

four years ago in bonny Barcelona that the greatest show on earth had touched town. Hustlers line the sidewalks with the hundred-watt tables and temporary plywood stalls. They sell drinks out of cans, cheap penny souvenir knock-knacks and the inevitable T-shirts.

An IOC member, Canada's Dick Pound, looked on with distaste. "If you have thousands of unofficial street vendors you totally devalue the Olympics and create commercial clutter," he said. But Atlanta's business is doing business.

"Shalom y'all" said the sign outside the bagel store. "Try our exotic meals, alligator, emu or bison" a restaurant advertised, attempting to invoke some global spirit, I suppose.

Coca-Cola, the biggest business of all, announced that its vast Olympic marketing strategy had helped "the product grow more than twice as fast as the rest of America's soft-drinks industry in the second quarter of the year".

The Atlanta conglomerate was "going at a real healthy clip as a direct result of our Olympic activities, which are manifest," said Coke's chief executive Roberto Goizueta, announcing a 17 per cent increase in net income to \$1.05 billion (\$877 million).

Coca-Cola is the biggest of the 1996 Games' 12 private-sector sponsors. The other 11 are each paying \$40 million for the privilege. One of those is the Visa credit card. A Tanzanian journalist, needing to send an important fax back home, changed his precious travellers' cheques into dollars and presented them at the fax office. Sorry, he was told, you can send a fax only with a Visa card. No card, no fax. These are the cashless Games. They are big business. And business is business.

In the athletes' canteen, another culture-shocked African shook his head in disbelief as he saw platefuls of almost untouched food discarded. "It is utterly incredible to us to witness so much good food being thrown away," said Methunga Jesse, a team manager. "In many African countries people would be killed for being so wasteful."

"All our team come from humble rural farming families. We grow our own food and live on it. It is truly shocking to us to see people here pile their plates high for their dinner, leave it in front of them and allow it to be thrown away."

He would be more shocked to learn that a huge fee had been paid by the man who won the waste-disposal rights to this modern Olympiad.

THERE is a big-bucks deal behind every aspect of this five-ring circus, from waste disposal to Linford Christie's appearance on the start-line. Only yesterday a proud blast of public-relations trumpets signalled the news. Lord help us, that "the Atlanta facility of Smithline Beecham has won the IOC contract to do the drug-testing at the Paralympic Games for the disabled".

"Parathletes are much less sophisticated than regular athletes," said Dr Michael Ridding, the International Paralympic Committee's medical officer, "so we are far more likely to catch them cheating. We plan to do over 500 tests, many more than we did in Barcelona."

There's progress for you.

Sky 'ready to go pay-per-view on soccer at £14 a match'

Andrew Gull

SKY Television is likely to be screening Premiership matches on a pay-per-view basis by next year, the Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis said yesterday.

His forecast that the Rupert Murdoch-owned station would show 10 games each week from the beginning of the 1997-98 season and that viewers would be charged up to £13.99 for some matches.

He said Sky would experiment with a series of high-profile "trial" games before introducing the system across the Premiership. "The whole 20 clubs will be offered on pay-per-view but it will be restricted to away games," he said.

In other words, supporters of a club could watch their home games on the normal Sky Sports service but would pay extra to watch the away matches. "It is the viewers' privilege and they can pay it or not pay it," Ellis said.

Sky's proposals have prompted fears that the station will try to sew up exclusive broadcast rights to football, blacking out radio coverage. Jenny

Abramsky, the former controller of Radio 5 Live who now runs the BBC's continuous news services, said: "We know Rupert Murdoch has an ambition for 500 TV channels and wants to broadcast simultaneously every league match."

"If he does, and some are already doing, I cannot believe he would not try to ensure there is no radio competition," she told the Radio Festival in Birmingham.

She said Radio 5 Live had already struggled to win rights to broadcast Sky Sport's first pay-per-view event, the Bruno-Tyson heavyweight fight from Las Vegas, which attracted a record night-time radio audience of three million. "It will get worse as the battle for sports rights goes on."

The immediate future was safeguarded because 5 Live began a four-year Premiership bid: "I would go along with any demand for no national broadcasting but I would not ban local broadcasting."

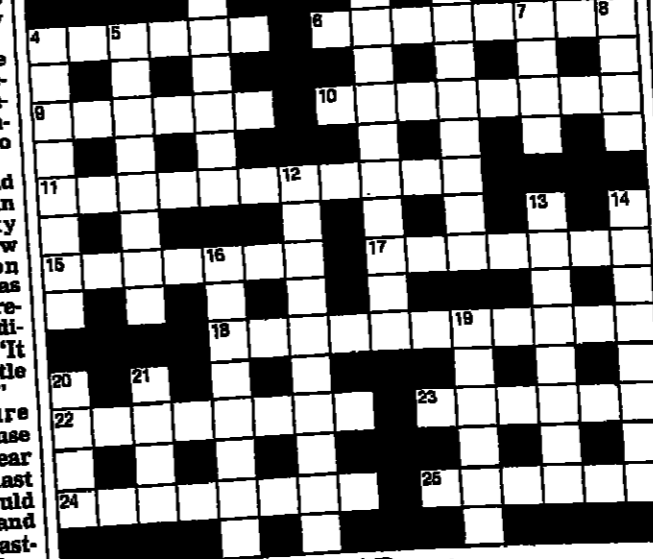
James Boyle, the new controller of Radio 4, plans to review Test Match Special's slot on long wave in response to listeners' protests about "endless cricket".

This is not the Paris of dreaming artists but of young people who never read the papers and seem prepared for a life clinging on to the skirts of a vaguely hostile world.
 Derek Malcolm on Les Apprentis

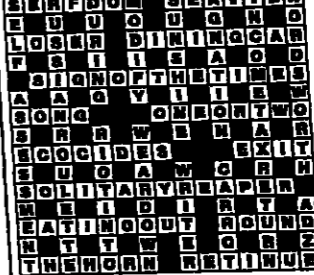
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Guardian Crossword No 20,708

Set by Orlando



- Across**
- 4 Preserve a road report that's false (6)
 - 6 Greek poem about Irish assembly that is extremely honest (3,5)
 - 9 Little Tommy's grub? (6)
 - 10 Stern dynasty preparing for war again? (6)
 - 11 Instinctive response of good German with reference to battle (3,5)
 - 16 An Asian city managed to make progress (7)
 - 17 English trees? Humbug! (7)
 - 18 Mountaineer's scrambling list (11)
 - 22 Lone Royalist in disguise (8)
 - 23 Champ with his heart in a German city (6)
 - 24 Outrageous linguist? (6)
 - 25 Father taking others out for a meal (6)
- Down**
- 1 Cheeses, we hear, in cooler (6)
 - 2 It looks ill (3,4,3)
 - 3 Cresting new fruit (8)
 - 4 Class act in play, say, or end of play (6)
 - 8 It can be addictive in a French city, love can (8)
 - 7 One attempt in the same place (4)
 - 8 Accommodation for squad's last soldier sent back to second front (4)
 - 12 Agree payment for acting together (10)
 - 13 Church based initially on a rock-forming mineral (8)
 - 14 Consumer magazine about end of migration thanks returning bird (6)
 - 16 A piece of music that's finished — true composition (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,707

- 17 Shook? Then call our solutions line on 0800 1 333 333. Calls cost 33p per min, cheap rate, 48p per min at other times. Service supplied by ATS
- 19 Sharpness given by a copper getting in the last word in prayer (6)
- 20 From sofa to settle? (2,2)
- 21 Changeable island (4)

Solution tomorrow

This year we'll be seeing more rounds at the Open than ever before.



Gillespie's Malt Stout.
 Official Beer of the 1996 Open Golf Championship.

Nicklas back to...
 Score page 9

Sche...
 trip...
 kille...
 host...

A

Members' in...
 Inside